

Contact:

Tara Nadel

703-879-7637

tara.nadel@cfnova.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Advancing Equity Throughout Northern Virginia: Community Foundation Awards Over \$800,000 in Grants

Fairfax, VA (April 17, 2024) – The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia has awarded **\$805,940** in grants to **49 local organizations** through its 2024 [Community Investment Funds \(CIF\)](#), [Environment Fund](#), and [Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts](#), competitive grant cycles. These grants are supported by [charitable endowments](#) managed by the Community Foundation, aimed at addressing current and emerging needs in the region.

As part of its mission to advance equity throughout the region, the Community Foundation’s annual discretionary grantmaking program is one of many tools it uses to address its four strategic priorities: promoting social and economic mobility, advancing racial justice and equity, supporting inclusive systems of economic growth, and strengthening community resilience. Grants are awarded for general operating support at the discretion of the nonprofits’ staff and board.

The Community Foundation’s flagship grant program directs funds toward organizations serving Northern Virginia in key areas including **aging, arts, child and youth development, education, environment, intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health, military personnel and families, and safety net support.**

[Insight Region®](#), the Community Foundation’s center for community research, played a vital role in identifying the 2024 priority areas within each funding category. This strategic approach ensures that charitable investments yield the greatest impact for residents across the Northern Virginia region.

The rigorous selection process involved 219 applications and the collaboration of 112 volunteers comprising area experts, donors, Foundation board members, and other community stakeholders. Together, they reviewed applications and made final funding recommendations to the Community Foundation’s board of directors.

Here are what a couple of the grantees have to say about the awards:

“For certain, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia’s Community Investment Funds are an impact multiplier of the progress and programs of the out-of-school time initiatives of The House, Inc.,” said Helen McCormick, Founder and President. “Thank you for your stakeholder role and the meaningful inclusion of our children and youth in your philanthropy.” (Child and Youth Development Fund Grantee)





"The grant from The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia will profoundly impact the lives of countless local children facing clothing insecurity, providing them with more than just a seasonal wardrobe. It's a lifeline of dignity, confidence, and hope," said Sarah Tyndall, Boxes of Basics Executive Director. "By meeting this critical physical need, we're nurturing their mental health, empowering them to thrive and succeed." (Safety Net Fund Grantee)

2024 Community Investment Fund Grants were awarded to the following programs and organizations:

Aging | \$36,000 | 2 Organizations

Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington (\$18,000)

Serving Northern Virginia

Funding will ensure 250 Northern Virginia seniors with irreversible chronic vision loss have access to eye health education, resource navigation services, assistive technology training, and peer support so that they can live longer, safer, happier, and more connected lives.

Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia (\$18,000)

Serving Fairfax County

Funding will help the Shepherd's Center serve more clients in underserved areas, ensuring the transportation needs of older adults such as critical doctor appointments and food essentials are met.

Child and Youth Development | \$90,000 | 6 Organizations

Aspire! Afterschool Learning (\$15,000)

Serving Arlington County

This grant will help Aspire (1) maintain the quality of its afterschool and summer programming through the expansion to two new elementary school sites and additional permanent middle school programming, and (2) meet its highest-ever demand as students, especially who have historically lacked access to resources and opportunities, continue to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BELONG! (\$15,000)

Serving Fairfax County

Funding will support Belong's after-school mentoring program for 81 immigrant/refugee children in grades K-8 weekly in lower-income households.

Casa Chirilagua (\$15,000)

Serving Arlington County

Funds will support Casa Chirilagua's Leadership Pipeline, which takes students from elementary through post-secondary, instilling a sense of confidence, structure and teamwork that will serve them in the next phase of their journey. Beginning with Kids Club in first grade, students are provided with twice weekly tutoring, homework help, reading support, computer practice, and a nutritious snack.

Girls on the Run of NOVA (\$15,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will enable participants who do not have the means to pay a registration fee to access this afterschool program that addresses the social and emotional health of its participants through interactive lessons.

*The House, Inc. (\$15,000)

Serving Prince William County

This grant will support youth in underserved communities in Prince William County through leadership development, upskilling programs, total health initiatives, mentoring, and co-curricular elective opportunities to tackle academic achievement gaps, boost in-seat attendance while supporting social-emotional learning and the 4-year graduation rate.

The Spitfire Club (\$15,000)

Serving Alexandria

This grant will support more than 80 “Spitfires” each week experience the magic of reading, connecting, and growing in The Spitfire Club (TSC). Funding will help sustain its operations, underwrite staff time to create and facilitate club programming, connect Spitfires with trained, excellent mentors, and fund the purchase of books and supplies.

Education | \$45,000 | 3 Organizations

English Empowerment Center (formerly Literacy Council of Northern Virginia) (\$15,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will provide critical operating funds to help English Empowerment Center's adult students from low-income, immigrant households to gain the English skills they need to meet the immediate needs of their families, access health and community resources, obtain new or better jobs, move on to higher-level learning, engage in their children's education, and make lasting changes in their communities.

Hispanics Against Child Abuse and Neglect (HACAN) (\$15,000)

Serving Fairfax County

This grant will provide general operating support for HACAN to pay qualified staff and to implement outreach initiatives to involve parents and the community in the early childhood education program.

*Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William, Inc. (\$15,000)

Serving Prince William County

Funding will support hundreds of students from low-income, non-native English-speaking, and medically underserved households through an innovative curriculum that leverages advanced technologies to blends English and health literacy.

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities | \$18,000 | 1 Organization

Best Buddies in VA and DC (\$18,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will support Best Buddies' Jobs Program that provides vocational services to people with IDD through person-centered job development, supported employment services, customized employment, job coaching, and job readiness training. Its goal is to create inclusive communities by supporting individuals with IDD to find meaningful jobs they love, independence, & create pathways for productive futures.

Lamond Fund to Benefit Children and Youth | \$110,000 | 3 Organizations

Food For Neighbors (\$30,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will help Food for Neighbors provide food, toiletry, and grocery gift card resources for students in six schools along the Route 1 corridor to tackle teen food insecurity so students can grow and learn.

Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) (\$30,000)

Serving Fairfax County

This grant will support NVFS' Youth Initiatives, which works in partnership with the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County Public Schools to offer trauma-informed mental health groups, psychoeducational workshops, and mental health services for

immigrant youth and families in the Route 1 corridor. With support, youth can process trauma, learn positive coping skills, stabilize their mental health, and develop a stronger community connection.

United Community (\$50,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

Funding will go towards CommUn1ty+, an initiative to support communities based on the needs expressed by Mount Vernon/Route 1 community residents in health, safety, economic strength, child and youth well-being, and neighborhood livability.

Latino Engagement and Achievement Fund (LEAF) | \$15,000 | 1 Organization

Centreville Immigration Forum (\$15,000)

Serving Fairfax County

This grant will help Centreville Immigration Forum serve its community by building competencies and advancing economic mobility, helping empower community members to break down barriers and advocate for systemic change. A leadership pipeline is central to its work, cultivating power, elevating leaders into positions of authority within the organization and the wider community to promote civic engagement.

Mental Health Fund | \$75,000 | 3 Organizations

The Family Counseling Center of Greater Washington (\$25,000)

Serving Fairfax County

This grant will enhance the capacity of The Family Counseling Center of Greater Washington by adding two new licensed counselors and one intern to its team. This expansion will enable the center to better serve its diverse community, including low-income, multilingual Asian immigrants, by providing increased access to mental health and counseling services.

The HUB for Growth and Healing (\$25,000)

Serving Fairfax County

The grant will help expand the HUB's clinical provisions with 300 additional mental health treatment sessions for children and families from underserved households in our community, reaching 25 new children/families with an average of 12 sessions each.

Rock Recovery (\$25,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

Funding will equip Rock Recovery to scale and grow its outpatient, low-cost therapy programs that serve the Northern Virginia region in-person in Arlington, VA and virtually. These programs include both individual therapy services and therapy groups for adolescents (14+) and adults who struggle with eating disorders and related mental health challenges (i.e. depression, anxiety, body image, etc.).

Military Personnel and their Families | \$40,000 | 2 Organizations

Easterseals DC MD VA (\$20,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This Grant will support Easterseals' employment support services for veterans and military spouses. These services help military spouses and veterans, including those with service-related disabilities, formerly incarcerated, and/or experiencing or at risk of homelessness, to secure meaningful employment and transition into civilian life with a sense of purpose and acceptance.

Operation Renewed Hope Foundation (\$20,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will support the Operation Renewed Hope Foundation (ORHF) to provide any combination of the following services:

outreach, case management, emergency and preventative financial assistance, direct housing assistance, housing improvements, renovations, and maintenance, and supportive services to Veterans and their families experiencing homelessness.

Safety Net | \$195,000 | 11 Organizations

Boxes of Basics (\$15,000)

Serving Prince William County

This grant will provide critical funding required to offer a solution to the clothing insecurity crisis in our area by providing a quality, seasonally appropriate wardrobe to over 1,500 local children from low-income households, delivering not just clothing, but also love, confidence and empowerment to every child.

Carpenter's Shelter (\$30,000)

Serving Alexandria

This grant will support Carpenter's Shelter as it empowers individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness to attain lasting self-sufficiency through emergency shelter, rapid re-housing and supportive housing, access to comprehensive services, including a free health clinic and mental health services, and through guidance, education, and advocacy.

Child and Family Network Center (CFNC) (\$15,000)

Serving Alexandria

This grant will help CFNC maintain an increased Family Support Team of four multilingual staff and a program director who speak the languages its families speak (English, Spanish, and Dari); connect 139 children from under-resourced, working families with emergency basic needs supports, and assist parents in achieving goals they establish for themselves through its free childcare model.

Homestretch, Inc. (\$15,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will support Homestretch's comprehensive service delivery programs including: intensive trauma-informed case management, workforce readiness training, educational opportunities and ESOL training, tenant education and housing advocacy, a financial literacy program featuring debt reduction education, and services for children including an on-site nursery center and licensed preschool.

Just Neighbors (\$15,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will support Just Neighbors' growth of immigration legal services to Northern Virginia residents with lower-incomes, helping immigrants obtain work permits, family unification and/or citizenship so that they can build better lives for themselves and their families.

LAWS Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services (\$15,000)

Serving Loudoun County

Funding will support LAWS' Safety programming, including its domestic violence shelter that provides families fleeing violence with safe temporary housing and support services as they work towards achieving permanent, stable housing and self-sufficiency.

Loudoun Free Clinic (\$15,000)

Serving Loudoun County

This grant will support free healthcare services for adults in Loudoun County with limited access to health insurance. Loudoun Free Clinic's services include preventative care, sick visits, well-woman care, diagnostic services, lab work, prescription medications, nutritional counseling, some immunizations, and some specialty care via volunteer providers.

Offender Aid and Restoration of Arlington, Inc. (\$15,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will sustain OAR's housing assistance services, helping over 100 Northern Virginia individuals and 30 families impacted by incarceration obtain and retain safe, stable housing. OAR aims to prevent homelessness and eviction and improve family well-being by assisting residents with emergency rent, mortgage, utility payments, and other housing necessities.

Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church (\$15,000)

Serving Alexandria

This grant will allow Rising Hope to provide immediate food and household assistance and other need-based services to the community along the Route 1 corridor, providing stabilizing support which leads to long-term sustainability.

Second Story (\$30,000)

Serving Fairfax County

Funding will empower youth in Second Story programs by providing safe shelter and support services, connecting them with caring adults to help them succeed in education and employment, and addressing systemic inequities faced by marginalized youth of color.

Survivor Ventures, Inc. (\$15,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

Funding will empower 20+ Northern VA trafficking survivors with crisis shelter, employment, rental assistance, and self-employment support (in that order) in FY 2024.

Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts | \$80,000 | 8 Organizations

Better Said Than Done (\$5,000)

Serving Fairfax County

This grant will allow BSTD to compensate storytellers in the WSF with a salary commensurate to the national rate for festival compensation.

Clearbrook Foundation (\$5,000)

Serving Prince William County

This grant will help the Clearbrook Foundation upgrade its sound system for better program quality.

Creative Cauldron (\$20,000)

Serving Fairfax County

This grant will allow Creative Cauldron to expand its ongoing "Artes Para Todos" work with youth from Spanish-speaking, underserved households and its "Bold New Voices" initiative supporting the development of a new play or musical written by a Latine woman for a professional production in 2025.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (\$20,000)

Serving Fairfax County

This grant will support the expansion of the FSO's education programs by increasing participation of elementary school students in Link Up from 1,600 to 2,000 students and the expansion of the diversity fellowship program by the addition of two fellows per year for a total of seven each year.

Heard (\$5,000)

Serving Alexandria

This grant will enable Heard to enhance its leadership team by securing consulting support to strategically plan the organization's growth under the guidance of the newly appointed Executive Director.

Sound Impact (\$10,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will help to bolster Sound Impact's team with a development position and extend its "Use Your Voice" Incarcerated Youth program to additional centers in the region for a more significant impact.

South Loudoun Youth Chorale (\$10,000)

Serving Loudoun County

This funding will facilitate the expansion of the South Loudoun Youth Chorale's summer camp program by adding an additional week and extending participation to grades 4-5.

Voce, Inc. (\$5,000)

Serving Fairfax County

Voce will use this grant to help fund the writing and recording of a new choral work by composer for its 2024-2025 season. The selected composer and new work will reflect Voce's commitment to supporting historically marginalized voices in classical music.

Environment Fund | \$95,000 | 8 Organizations

Clean Fairfax Council, Inc. (\$10,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will enable Clean Fairfax to develop a Plastic-Free Farmers Market hub with digital and print resources for regional farmers market managers, vendors, and customers. CF will engage selected FCPA Farmers Markets for a Plastic-Free July with in-person presence and educational promotions.

Earth Sangha (\$20,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

Funding will help Earth Sangha build its Native Plant Propagation program to grow and restore more native plants to natural areas in the Northern Virginia region, and to train Conservation Interns in specialized on-the-ground skills in native plant conservation.

Global Education Energy Environment Inc. (\$5,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will be used to cover the full cost of a starter kit to be donated to a Northern Virginia school to begin the program and participate in the next DC EVGP.

Hands On Harvests (\$5,000)

Serving Fairfax County

This funding will support the acquisition of irrigation equipment for water conservation and demonstration purposes, as well as coir logs, accessory supplies, and native plants for slope stabilization and soil conservation. Additionally, the grant will enable the production of multilingual signage and the hiring of a part-time garden manager during the peak of the growing season.

NatureBridge (\$20,000)

Serving Prince William County

This grant will help expand NatureBridge Prince William campus capacity, supporting local Mid-Atlantic staff efforts to strengthen its Prince William County School District partnership to ultimately provide immersive outdoor experiences to all 7,000+ 7th graders in the County.

Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets (\$5,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will help Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets expand its Pedestrian Street Safety Education program to educate middle school students about the environmental and sustainability benefits of walking and biking as transportation.

PWCS Education Foundation (\$5,000)

Serving Prince William County

This grant will support Prince William County Schools pave the way for a sustainable future through interactive environmental education where students become "Eco Heroes" through service learning after attending "The EcoHero Show", an elementary-level STEAM and environmental sustainability concert-like experience.

Sustainability Matters (\$10,000)

Serving All of Northern Virginia

This grant will support Sustainability Matters' Making History Bloom project, which will remove invasive species and plant native meadows along the historic W&OD Trail. Activities will also include free events and workshops to educate adults and children about the environment.

Additional Grants | \$6,940 | 1 Organization

FACETS (\$6,940)

Serving Fairfax County

FACETS believes that everyone should have access to adequate and affordable housing and nobody should be homeless. This grant will help thousands of people in Fairfax County pull themselves out of a crisis related to housing, food insecurity, and poverty and empower individuals and families to build stronger futures.

***Funding made possible by Haymarket Fund**

###

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Founded in 1978, the Community Foundation has been the premier charitable partner trusted by thousands of generous Northern Virginians for decades. Our mission is to advance equity through philanthropy and community leadership. Comprised of donor advised funds, permanent funds, giving circles, and other charitable endowments, the Community Foundation's vision is to build a community that works for everyone. Our Community Foundation serves the entire region, including Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties and the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

www.cfnova.org