



SISTERS *of* CHARITY FOUNDATION  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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# 2020 Annual Report

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# MISSION

In response to God's call and in the spirit of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, the Foundation strategically uses resources to reduce poverty through action, advocacy and leadership.

# VISION

Families in South Carolina have the resources to live out of poverty.

# VALUES



Courage



Collaboration



Justice



Respect



Compassion



Our Catholic  
Identity

## 2020-2023 STRATEGIC INTENTIONS

1. Raise and extend the profile of the Foundation to inspire and influence positive change for those living in poverty in South Carolina.
2. Deepen and sharpen our grantmaking focus for greater impact on our mission.
3. Elevate and expand action and results in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) space as a driver of reducing poverty.

As a Catholic organization, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina sees the Church's social teachings as guideposts to which our work aspires. Being founded by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, every aspect of our work reflects their mission which upholds core elements of Catholic social teaching:

1. Life and dignity of the human person
2. Call to family, community and participation
3. Rights and responsibilities
4. Option for the poor and vulnerable
5. The dignity of work and the right of workers
6. Solidarity
7. Care for God's creation

Through our mission, we are committed to individuals, families, and communities who are experiencing poverty, and we are carrying out the charge given to us by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine that ***“echoes the understanding throughout Catholic social teaching that, in God's eyes, the needs and rights of the poor are to be given special attention.”***

# Letter from the President & Chair

In a year that was both unusual and challenging due to a pandemic and social unrest, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina's commitment to our mission never wavered. Our staff and board recognized the needs of South Carolina communities had reached new heights and we worked swiftly to meet those demands.

Food insecurity soared in the Spring of 2020 due to COVID-19. In order to assist communities in crisis, we provided financial resources and funded 29 organizations across the state as they worked to meet urgent needs.

In addition to the response to needs associated with COVID-19, the Foundation funded a total of 227 grants with over \$3 million disbursed to grantee partners working to reduce poverty in the Palmetto State. Sisters of Charity of South Carolina invested more in grant dollars in 2020 than any year in our 24-year history.

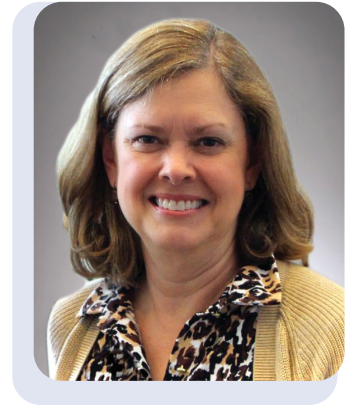
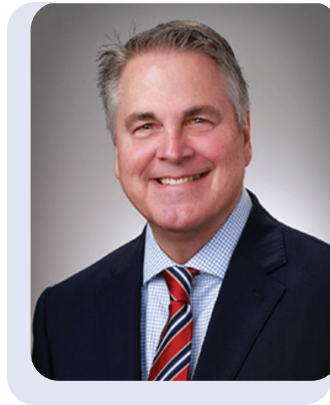
We also implemented the first year of our three-year strategic plan in 2020. Staff and board worked diligently to develop this plan and we are proud that we were able to stay on course with our intentions and objectives. This report provides an overview of 2020 milestones related to the strategic plan.

**The following changes occurred within the first year of implementation:**

***Our grantmaking funding categories were streamlined to three categories:***

- ▶ **Immediate Needs**
- ▶ **Breaking the Cycle**
- ▶ **Systems Change**

The streamlined process resulted in a more efficient system and a clearer process for grant seekers.



## ***The Board approved the creation of a new committee (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion)***

A greater commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is one of the primary strategic intentions outlined in our 2020-2023 strategic plan. We are grateful that we had a solid footing in that space as we, along with the rest of our nation, dealt with the social unrest that followed the murder of George Floyd in late May. Our staff and board, along with many other partners, courageously faced these issues and continue to hold fast to our values as we connect our DEI work to our mission of reducing poverty in South Carolina.

## ***We changed and renamed our former community engagement committee to now encompass Policy, Research and Communications.***

The Foundation understands that grant funding alone is not enough to create real change in our state. We have started placing a greater emphasis on working collaboratively with organizations on studies and analyses that can help our grantee partners as they advocate for the people they serve.

Our team partnered with the Rural & Minority Health Research Center at the University of South Carolina to conduct research that quantitatively assesses the factors that contribute to poverty throughout the state. Hundreds attended a webinar that we co-hosted on the South Carolina Structural Factors Associated with Poverty Report. While collaboration was different in the virtual world that resulted from the pandemic, we pivoted alongside others by participating in and leading a variety

# Letter from the President & Chair

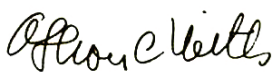
of community and statewide forums with the OneSC Fund for COVID Relief, SC Grantmakers Network, Together SC, and many others. Our Foundation team also played a major role in supporting the efforts around the 2020 Census for the City of Columbia and the state of South Carolina.

In 2020, we welcomed new board member, Rev. Tiffany Knowlin Boykin and welcomed back returning members, Pam Bryant and Rick Mendoza.

2020 has been difficult, but it has also provided many blessings. We are thankful for our trustees and their unwavering commitment to the mission of the Foundation and our dedicated staff who continued to work without interruption.

We feel blessed to continue to carry out the mission and core values of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine through the Foundation ministry. We pray this report provides a glimpse of the Foundation's work in 2020. We also hope it inspires you to help us create positive change for people experiencing poverty in SC and beyond.

We are humbled by and thankful for the people who walk along with us in our quest to serve others in poverty.



Thomas C. Keith  
President & CEO



Lisa Bernardin  
2020 Board of Trustees, Chair



## 2020 Board of Trustees

**Lisa G. Bernardin, JD**  
*Chair*

**T. Mitchell Watson**  
*Vice Chair*

**Brian Murrell**  
*Secretary*

**J. Anderson Folsom, JD**  
*Treasurer*

**Pamela T. Bryant, MA**

**Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA, FACHE**

**Thomas C. Keith,**  
*Foundation President/Ex Officio*

**Reshma Khan, MD**

**Rev. Tiffany Knowlin-Boykin**

**Susanna Krey**  
*Ex Officio*

**J. Michael McCabe, CFP**

**Julio E. (Rick) Mendoza**

**Patricia J. Moore-Pastides, MPH**

**Thomas P. Otis, MBA, CCIM**

**Joseph Lee Pearson, MS, DrPH**

**Ronald O. Pitner, Ph.D., ACSW**

**Maria Smoak, M.Ed.**

## Staff

**Thomas C. Keith**  
*President*

**Hiller Davenport**  
*Foundation Coordinator*

**Kim Frohnappel**  
*Director of Operations and Facilities  
Management*

**Meredith Mathews**  
*Program Director*

**Chynna A. Phillips**  
*Director of Research and Policy*

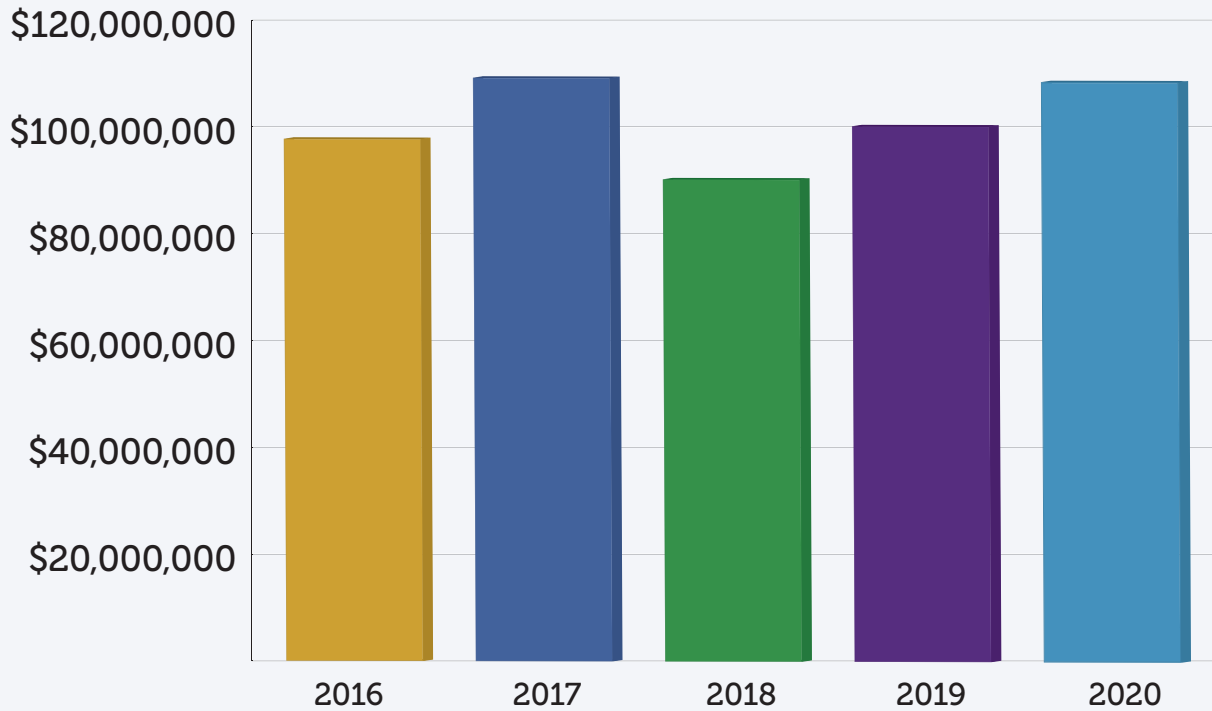
**Donna Waites**  
*Vice President of Programs*

**Ericka Wooten**  
*Director of Diversity Equity and  
Inclusion*



# TOTAL ASSETS & FINANCIALS

As of December 31, 2020



## Current Assets

Cash	\$175,520
Prepaid other	\$14,072
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$189,592</b>

## Property and Equipment

<b>Total Property and Equipment</b>	<b>\$30,468</b>
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## Investments

<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$108,362,790</b>
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## Restricted Assets

<b>Restricted Assets</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>
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**Total Assets \$108,584,050**

## Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$2,994
Accrued vacation	\$75,922
Other accrued liabilities	\$42,605
Accrued payroll	\$23,987

**Total Current Liabilities**

**\$145,509**

**Total Liabilities**

**& Fund Balance \$108,584,050**

# Policy and Research

The Foundation's mission is to reduce poverty in South Carolina through action, advocacy and leadership, which is why our strategic plan must have an intention that is dedicated to raising and extending the profile of the Foundation to inspire and influence positive change for those living in poverty in South Carolina. In 2020, the Foundation focused on building a solid plan of action, as well as responding to the needs that arose as a result of the pandemic.

## **Formed the Policy, Communications and Research Committee of the Board.**

As a result of the strategic plan the Foundation created the Policy, Communications and Research Committee (PCR) of the board. The PCR Committee supports one of the three main intentions in the current strategic plan, which is to raise and extend the profile of the Foundation to inspire and influence positive change for those living in poverty in South Carolina. Through participatory decision-making strategies, committee members oversee the Foundation's work in public policy, advocacy, poverty knowledge, communications, public awareness/education and research.

## **Hosted three federal level virtual convenings, each with over 300 participants.**

With the uncertainty and economic downturn that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, there were many discussions regarding how to ensure that our small businesses stayed open. In the philanthropic sector, we had to ensure that those in decision-making positions did not forget about the nonprofits. Similar to small businesses, there were changes to many nonprofits also at risk of closing and potentially losing funding due to increased need. As a result, Foundation staff partnered with organizations to sign on to multiple advocacy letters and host a series of events to ensure that the nonprofits was seen and valued by state and federal legislators such as statewide Congressional Staff Meetings with Congressman Jim Clyburn, former Congressman Joe Cunningham, and the office of US Senator Tim Scott.





# Policy and Research

## Held a Research Stakeholder Meeting & Statewide Study Completed

In 2020, the Foundation partnered with the Rural & Minority Health Research Center at the University of South Carolina to conduct research that quantitatively assesses the factors that contribute to poverty throughout South Carolina. The research conducted and presented in the report builds upon previous efforts undertaken by the Foundation. To help determine the greatest barriers facing individuals and families experiencing poverty in South Carolina, we conducted a survey of our 2018 and 2019 grantees. The explicit goal of the 2020 Research study was “to identify, acknowledge, and examine the systemic and policy factors that lead to, reinforce, and exacerbate poverty specifically for residents of South Carolina.”

In June, the Foundation held a stakeholders meeting, as outlined in the research proposal. This meeting consisted of board members, Foundation staff, and community stakeholders to give feedback on what factors they felt contribute to poverty given their expertise. Additionally, they also discussed how COVID-19 has impacted communities that are experiencing poverty. The feedback received was integral to the completion of the study. The the study was completed in November and shared to the public in January through a webinar, which can be found on our website.

## Presidents Fellows Network of Mentors Convening

In partnership with Together SC, the President’s Fellows Network of Mentors convening took place at the People of Color Nonprofit Leaders Symposium: Philanthropy as Social Capital. This symposium was designed to engage Black, Indigenous and other nonprofit leaders of Color in a dialogue about the importance of social capital. Attendees learned strategies that position the philanthropic sector to play a pivotal role in improving

social outcomes for Indigenous, Black, and People of Color populations. One of the aspects of the Foundations work that was highlighted was the President’s Fellows Network of Mentors. This event served as the first time that the Network of over 20 male leaders of color within the philanthropic sector, came together to meet each Fellow. African American male leaders from various Foundations throughout South Carolina, North Carolina, Washington DC, and California made up this inaugural cohort. The goal of the Network of Mentors is to build, nurture, and illuminate the inherent leadership qualities within each Presidents’ Fellow. In order to do that, the group was intentional in ensuring that the students were able to see themselves at every level of leadership in philanthropy.

## Kinship Care Statewide Tele-Townhall

The Foundation remains an active member of the kinship care advisory council. At the beginning of 2020, the committee nominated Megan Branham as chairwoman and staff has worked closely with her as she leads the council. In the peak of pandemic our annual Kinship Care Day at the Capitol had to be canceled but, the council has continued the work by conducting a Tele-Townhall. This served as a new avenue for engagement for caregivers across the state. As a result of their involvement many new individuals were able to learn about services and support during a time of isolation.



# Policy and Research

## Director of Policy & Research chaired the Complete Count Committee for the City of Columbia

In early 2019, Chynna Phillips was appointed by Mayor Steve Benjamin as chair of the City of Columbia's Complete Count Committee (CCC). The CCC is a model provided by the US Census Bureau. It encouraged tribal, state, and local governments, community-based organizations; faith-based groups; schools and businesses; to work together to get the most accurate count available. Due to this appointment, the Foundation played a pivotal role in identifying key target areas for engagement, hosting Dr. Steven Dillingham, former Director of the U.S. Census, and bringing national organizations and partnerships to the city.

There were no shortage of hurdles facing community members when asked to advocate for an accurate Census count. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were many changes made on a national and local level to ensure that Census workers and local advocates remained safe. Major changes included delays in the areas of mobile questionnaire assistance, field worker hiring, and non-response follow up. Despite the many timeline changes the Foundation remained committed to a statewide Census effort through participation in the SC Count Campaign, that developed out of the South Carolina Grantmakers Network.

The City of Columbia Census Committee remained diligent in their push toward a complete and accurate count. Under the leadership of Chynna Phillips and countless other community advocates, a plethora of events took place. In addition to multiple trainings of community leaders, this committee hosted virtual phone-banking events that called over 2,000 unique households, DJ party crawls on Instagram live, and joy tours bringing in local leaders to talk about a complete count. Additionally, all scheduled in person events incorporated voting registration, food access, and sanitation supplies in addition to the Census sign-ups.



# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

During the strategic planning process the Board and staff acknowledged that to better understand poverty and the factors that contribute to it, there must be an understanding of racism. Poverty and racism are inextricably linked, and you cannot work in the poverty space and not address the influence of racism and racial inequities. Because of this reality, the Foundation Board of Trustees and staff overwhelmingly agreed that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) should be a strategic focus for the work of the Foundation. A strategic intention was created to “elevate and expand action and results in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) space as a driver of reducing poverty.” The Foundation is fully committed to creating a diverse, racially equitable, and inclusive culture. These DEI values are a part of the Foundation’s core values along with courage, compassion, collaboration, respect, and justice.

The year 2020 will be remembered in US history as a pivotal year in which two specific crises shed a bright light on the problem of systemic racism. A once in a century public health crisis disproportionately impacting communities of color and racial unrest and protests at a level that has not been seen since the civil rights movement of the 1960s, highlighted how the impacts of racism and racial injustice are still being felt and experienced. These events bring into sharp focus

the importance and necessity of the Foundation to be engaged in the work of DEI, both internally and externally. The Foundation must use our influence as a statewide leader to advance this work as well.

## Highlights from 2020 in the Foundation’s DEI work:

- Created a Director of Diversity, Equitable, and Inclusion
- Created a DEI Committee of the Board
- Implemented 2020 learning plan that included staff and DEI Committee members.

## The DEI Committee has developed:

- DEI Glossary. Having a common language for talking about and across differences is essential for breaking down divisions and working towards achieving understanding and partnership.
- Drafts of a DEI Plan and Policy have been started. Work on both will continue to develop in 2021.
- Hiring and Recruitment Guidelines were developed with steps to ensure a more diverse, equitable and inclusive workforce.
- Created a survey that collected information from our grantee partners focused on obtaining demographic data on leadership, staff and volunteers of our grantee partners.



# Grantmaking: 2020 Highlights

In response to the success aspiration and goals outlined in the Foundation’s strategic intention to “deepen and sharpen our grantmaking focus for greater impact on our mission,” the staff at the Foundation spent many months at the end of 2019 setting the stage for 2020 grantmaking. 2020’s grantmaking strategy focused on building a stronger, well-defined framework for making informed, efficient, strategic investment decisions for maximum impact. The actions of year one of the strategic plan centered on framework, process, and value alignment to further the Foundation’s strategic goals.

## Framework

The creation of three grant focus areas with two grant cycles (in contrast to 2019’s twelve grant categories and as many deadlines/ reporting requirements) both streamlined internal processes and improved applicant experience. The Foundation also moved towards a more strategic alignment of grantmaking framework and resources to increase the Foundation’s impact, focusing intentionally on the areas of breaking the cycle of poverty and systems level change.

## Process

Refining and streamlining grants management infrastructure also led to more alignment between resources and strategic goals.

The new inquiry process allowed staff to field questions from 275 organizations, ensuring that those who meet basic criteria are applying in the correct category and have a direct line of communication with staff from the beginning of the process. Additionally, organizations who do not align with the Foundation’s mission and/ or grant guidelines are declined and receive this information without having to enter the full application process.

## Value Alignment

All grantmaking activities are guided by the Foundation’s core values and in 2020, a formal set of grantmaking principles was introduced to enhance the parameters and structure that guide the Foundation’s grantmaking framework, process, and funding decisions. These principles center on transparency (both internally and externally), trust that is reciprocal and shared, humility and mindfulness of proximity to power/resources, and alignment with the Foundation’s core values of respect, justice, collaboration, compassion, and courage.



# Grantmaking: 2020 Highlights

## Grantee-Centered Grantmaking Practices at the Onset of COVID-19

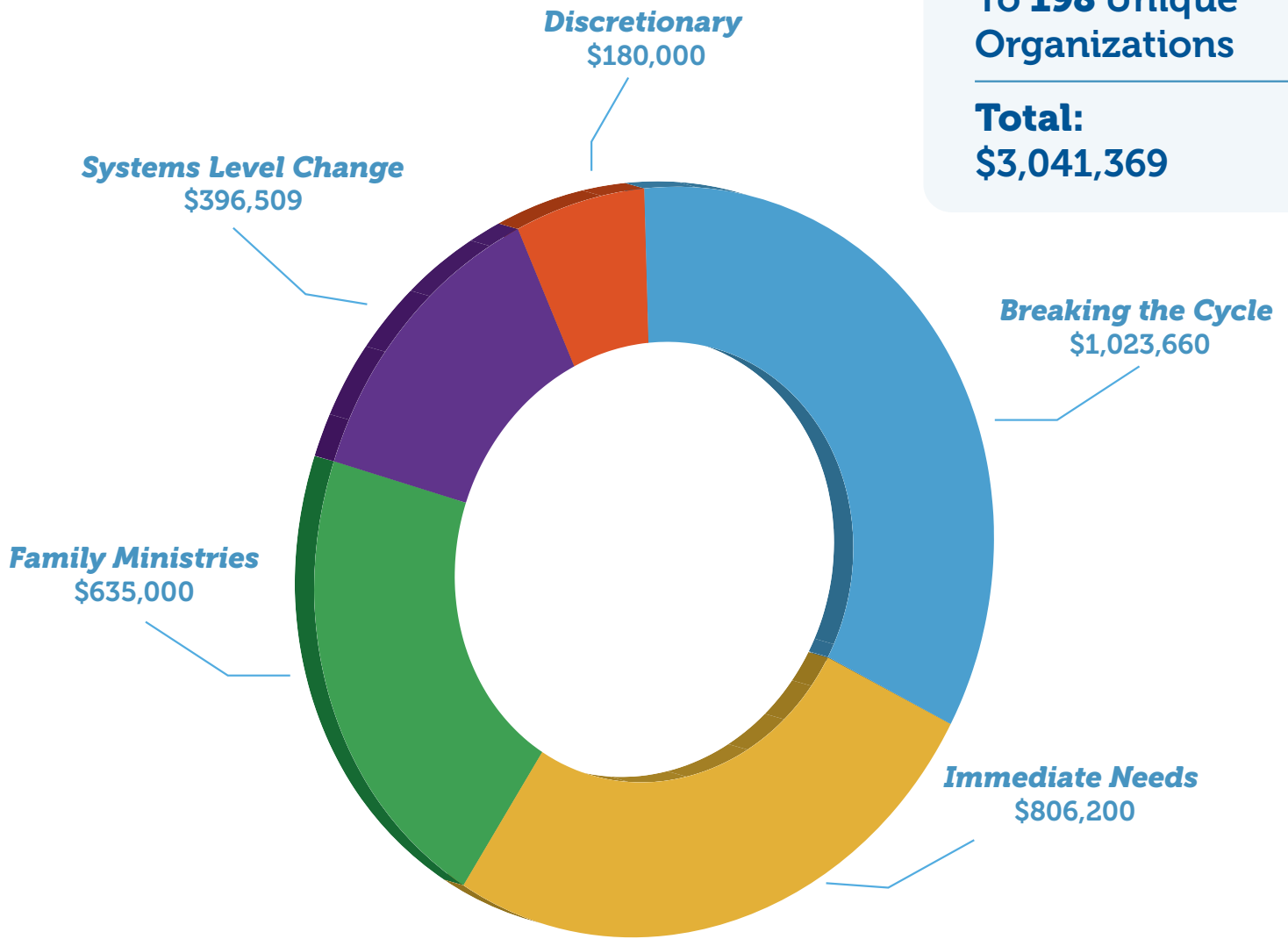
The week of March 16, staff quickly implemented shifts in the 2020 grantmaking process and reached out individually to over 200 grantee partners with two immediate goals: prioritize the needs of our grantee partners and remove any barriers in our process to support organizations' ability to do their work effectively at a most critical time. Along with loosened report requirements, staff was responsive to partners' needs to access unrestricted funds immediately and approved all requests from partners to convert their remaining 2019 grant funds into general operating grants and/or redirect program specific grants to their COVID response efforts. We also encouraged all organizations to request general operating funds for their 2020 grants and to include any specific needs that had arisen as a result of COVID-19 on their applications. With support from the Grants Committee and Foundation Board, the 2020 grants budget was increased to ensure that the Foundation's grantmaking truly focused on the needs of nonprofits at a crucial time by removing barriers to funding, prioritizing critical needs, and supporting the ongoing operations of our grantee partners whose continued programs are vital for the lives of South Carolinians experiencing poverty.



# Grantmaking: 2020 Highlights

**227 Grants**  
Were Awarded  
To **198 Unique**  
Organizations

**Total:**  
**\$3,041,369**



Program Area	Number of Grants	Total
Health	49	\$603,600
Education	50	\$734,400
Social Services	128	\$1,703,369
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>\$3,041,369</b>

# 2020 Grantee Partners

A Childs Haven  
Agape Family Life Center  
Anderson Free Clinic  
Anderson Interfaith Ministries  
Angels Charge Ministry  
Area Churches Together Serving- ACTS  
Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired- Charleston  
Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic  
Beaufort-Jasper YMCA of the Lowcountry  
Berkeley County First Steps  
Big Brothers Big Sisters Upstate  
Bluffton Jasper County Volunteers in Medicine  
Bluffton Self Help  
Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry  
Bridges for End-Of-Life  
Calhoun County Snack Packs  
Camp Happy Days  
Carolina Human Reinvestment (CHRSC)  
Carolina Youth Development Center  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Charleston  
Catholic Charities Office of Immigration Services  
Central Baptist Church- Helping Teachers Help Students  
Central Midlands Justice Ministry  
Charleston Area Justice Ministry  
Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center  
Charleston Legal Access  
Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services  
Charleston Promise Neighborhood  
Children's Recovery Center  
Christ Central Ministries' Chester Center of Hope  
Christian Assistance Bridge  
Clarendon County Council on Aging  
Classroom Central  
Columbia College  
Communities in Schools of the Charleston Area  
Communities in Schools of the Midlands  
Community Foundation of Greenville  
Community Initiatives  
Community Kitchen of Myrtle Beach  
Community Medical Clinic of Kershaw County  
Community Works  
Compass of Carolina  
Developmental Center for Exceptional Children  
Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center  
Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center  
Dyslexia Resource Center  
East Cooper Community Outreach  
East Cooper Meals on Wheels  
Edisto Indian Free Clinic  
EmmanuWheel  
Fairfield County Council on Aging  
Family Promise of Anderson County  
Family Promise of Beaufort County  
Family Support Services of Horry County  
Felician Center  
Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina  
Food Bank of Greenwood County  
Food for The Soul - Kershaw County  
FoodShare  
Foothills Family Resources  
Free Medical Clinic of Aiken  
Free Medical Clinic of Darlington County  
Freedom Readers  
Friends of The Union County Carnegie Library  
Friendship Medical Clinic and Pharmacy  
Golden Corner Food Pantry  
Golden Harvest Food Bank  
Good Samaritan Clinic  
Good Shepherd Free Medical Clinic of Laurens County  
GRASP  
Greenville Free Medical Clinic  
Greenville Tech Foundation- African American Male Scholars Initiative  
Habitat for Humanity Georgetown County  
Harvest Hope Food Bank  
Healthy Learners  
Healthy Smiles of Spartanburg  
HELP of Summerville  
Helping and Lending Outreach Support-HALOS  
Helping Hand of Myrtle Beach  
Helping Hands of Georgetown  
Hispanic Alliance  
Homeless No More  
Homeless Period Project  
Homes of Hope  
HomeWorks of America  
Hope Center for Children  
Hope in Lancaster  
Hopeful Horizons  
Hospice and Palliative Care Foundation of South Carolina  
Housing Development Corporation of Rock Hill  
Hub City Farmers Market  
ICNA Relief USA, Shifa Free Clinic  
Impact America  
Institute for Child Success  
International African American Museum  
Jasmine Road  
Jewish Family Services of Greater Charleston  
Kershaw Area Resource Exchange - KARE  
Laurens County Cancer Association  
Lee County Council on Aging  
Lighthouse Ministries

# 2020 Grantee Partners

Lowcountry Food Bank  
Lowcountry Local First  
Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas  
Meals On Wheels Of Greenville  
Meals on Wheels of Summerville  
Memory Matters  
Mercy Medicine Free clinic  
Metanoia Community Development Corporation  
Meyer Center for Special Children  
Middle Tyger Community Center  
Midlands Housing Alliance  
Midlands Mediation Center  
Mill Community Ministries  
Miss Ruby's Kids  
My Amigos Bilingual Education Center  
Neighbor to Neighbor of South Carolina  
Neighborhood Focus  
Neighborhood Outreach Connection  
New Directions of Horry County  
Northside Development Corporation  
Operation Home  
Operation Sight  
Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services  
Palmetto Place Children and Youth Services  
Partners for Active Living  
PASOs Programs  
Pattison's Academy  
Pendleton Place  
Phoebe Pember Foundation-The Sophia Institute  
Pickens County Advocacy Center  
Pickens County Meals on Wheels  
Pregnancy Center and Clinic of the Low Country  
Pride Link  
Public Education Partners  
Rebuild Upstate  
Richland Library  
Root & Rebound  
Safe Harbor  
Sandalwood Community Food Pantry  
Second Chance Bikes  
Senior Resources  
Serve & Connect  
Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands  
Sistercare  
Soteria Community Development Corporation  
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center  
South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families  
South Carolina Collaborative on Race and Reconciliation  
South Carolina Community Loan Fund  
South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health  
Southeastern Chapter National Safety Council  
Springbank Christian Center Dominican Retreat House  
St. Cyprian Outreach  
St. Francis Center  
St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic  
St. Martin de Porres Catholic School  
Student Action with Farmworkers  
Switch  
Taylors Free Medical Clinic  
Teach for America - South Carolina  
Teach My People  
Teachers' Supply Closet  
The ARK of South Carolina  
The Children's Council  
The Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center  
The Foothills Alliance  
The Free Medical Clinic  
The Green Heart Project  
The Hive Community Circle  
The Literacy Center  
The Naomi Project  
The Smart Box  
The Sustainability Institute  
The Village Group  
Thornwell  
Together SC  
Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative  
Tri-County Family Ministries  
Trident Literacy Association  
Turning Leaf Project  
United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County  
United Ministries  
United Way of Greenville County  
United Way of Kershaw County  
United Way of the Midlands  
United Way of the Piedmont  
University of South Carolina Rural and Minority Health Research Center  
Upstate Warrior Solution  
USC Salkehatchie  
Vital Aging of Williamsburg County  
Volunteers in Medicine Clinic  
Welvista  
Windwood Farm  
WINGS  
Women's Rights and Empowerment Network-WREN  
YMCA of Greenville  
York County Free Clinic



[sistersofcharitysc.com](https://sistersofcharitysc.com)

 SCFSC  @scfsc  socfsc

*Thank you to our grantee partners that provided many of the photos that have been used in this report.*



SISTERS *of* CHARITY FOUNDATION  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA