



SISTERS *of* CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

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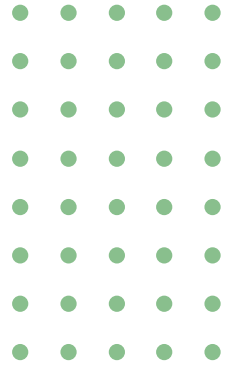
MISSION



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 THEY NEED
TO LIVE OUT OF POVERTY.**



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIR



Provided: FoodShareSC



Provided: Homes of Hope

Dear Partners,

As we reflect on 2024, our 28th year of serving South Carolina, the theme of embracing change—both planned and unexpected—resonates deeply with the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina. Change is often a catalyst for growth, and as we navigate these transitions, we find ourselves more deeply rooted in our mission and with the people of our state.

This year brought both challenges and opportunities that have shaped us in unexpected ways. In the face of historical hurricane damage in areas unaccustomed to such devastation, we witnessed the resilience and compassion of South Carolinians. Communities across the state rallied to support our neighbors in the northwestern region, reminding us of the power of shared humanity.

Internally, we said farewell to two long-serving team members who pursued new and exciting paths, and we welcomed new staff who have enriched our Foundation with their talents and fresh perspectives. In August, we brought on a new grantmaking leader whose vision is perfectly aligned with the needs of this season.

In 2024, we engaged in deep study and reflection. We partnered with the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health's Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE) to conduct our first qualitative study on poverty in South Carolina. Building on the 2020 quantitative study that identified six structural factors contributing to poverty, this research brought voices and lived experiences to the forefront, complementing the earlier data.



Midway through the year, we extended this commitment to listening by collaborating with MPowrd Analytics to focus on populations that were underrepresented in previous studies. Through focus groups, specific barriers and policy solutions were highlighted that reflect the realities of those directly impacted by poverty. Both of these powerful studies will be published in early 2025, further grounding our work in research and lived experience.

Guided by these insights and nearly three decades of experience, we also embarked on developing a new strategic plan. After the transition to new leadership in 2022, we took the time to thoughtfully assess where we are and where we want to be. This deliberate process positions us to move forward with clarity and purpose.

Like many of our partners in this important work, as our nation transitions into a new presidential administration, we remain steadfast in our commitment to resilience, solidarity, and the unwavering pursuit of human dignity and equity for all people. In partnership with courageous allies, we will respond to challenges and opportunities with resolve, ensuring our mission continues to guide us through times of change. Looking ahead to 2025 and beyond, we embrace the work before us with hope and determination, grateful for the partners, supporters, and communities who inspire and sustain our efforts. Together, we are building a stronger South Carolina.

With Gratitude,



Donna Waites

Donna Waites
President



Macon Lovelace

Macon Lovelace
Board Chair 2024

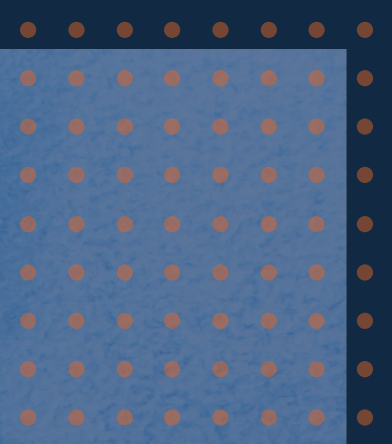


Provided: Turn90



Provided: PASOS

MEET OUR 2024 TEAM



Donna Waites
President



Hiller Davenport
Special Assistant to
the President and Operations
Manager



Ericka Wooten
Director of Culture and
Values



Chynna A. Phillips*
Senior Director of
Policy and Research



Melinda A. Merrell
Senior Director of
Grantmaking



Meredith Mathews*
Senior Director of
Grantmaking and
Strategy



SK D. Catalano
Community
Engagement Manager

**Denotes departure from the organization in 2024*

MEET OUR BOARD

Macon Lovelace, Chair

Trinity Partners

Lee Pearson, Vice Chair

USC Arnold School of Public Health

Tracy S. Bailey, Secretary

Freedom Readers

Thomas Otis, Treasurer

Palmetto Infusion Services

Donna Waites, President/Ex Officio

Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina

Michael Goar, Ex Officio

Sisters of Charity Health System

Kaela Bailey

HDR

Connie Breeden

The Law Office of Connie Breeden, LLC

Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA

Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

Pam Bryant

Wells Fargo Foundation

Tony McDade

Community Leader and Educator

Mario Melendez

G3 Wealth Advisors

Rick Mendoza

Maynard Nexsen PC

Patricia Moore-Pastides

Author, Adjunct Professor, & Public Health Advocate

Adam Sheehan

Ryan Specialty Benefits

Maria Smoak

Community and Arts Volunteer

Mitch Watson

HUB International - Carolinas

Tiger Wells

Duke Energy Corporation

2024 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kari-Claudia Allen Harrington

USC School of Medicine

Maria Kratsios

Richland School District Two

Alex Kubas

BlueCross BlueShield of SC

Amanda Lawrence

HCA Healthcare, South Atlantic Division

Ivan Segura

SC Commission for Minority Affairs

OUR CORE VALUES

Our core values are essential in guiding our work. In 2024 the Foundation continued to lean into our mission and values that are manifested in the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. These values are informed by the belief in everyone's inherent dignity and that everyone has a responsibility to promote the common good, especially in communities experiencing poverty, marginalization, and vulnerability.



COURAGE



JUSTICE



COMPASSION



COLLABORATION



RESPECT

CALL TO CARITAS

Catholic Social Teaching consists of seven principles that address matters of social, economic, and ecological justice in the world. The principles are guided by the belief that we all have a responsibility to participate in society and to promote the common good, especially for those who are marginalized and vulnerable. During 2024, the Foundation continued to engage the Catholic Social Teaching themes. Along with our core values and the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, these themes provide clarity around not only the reason for our work but also how we are called to do this work.

The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Rights and Responsibilities

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Care for God's Creation

Solidarity

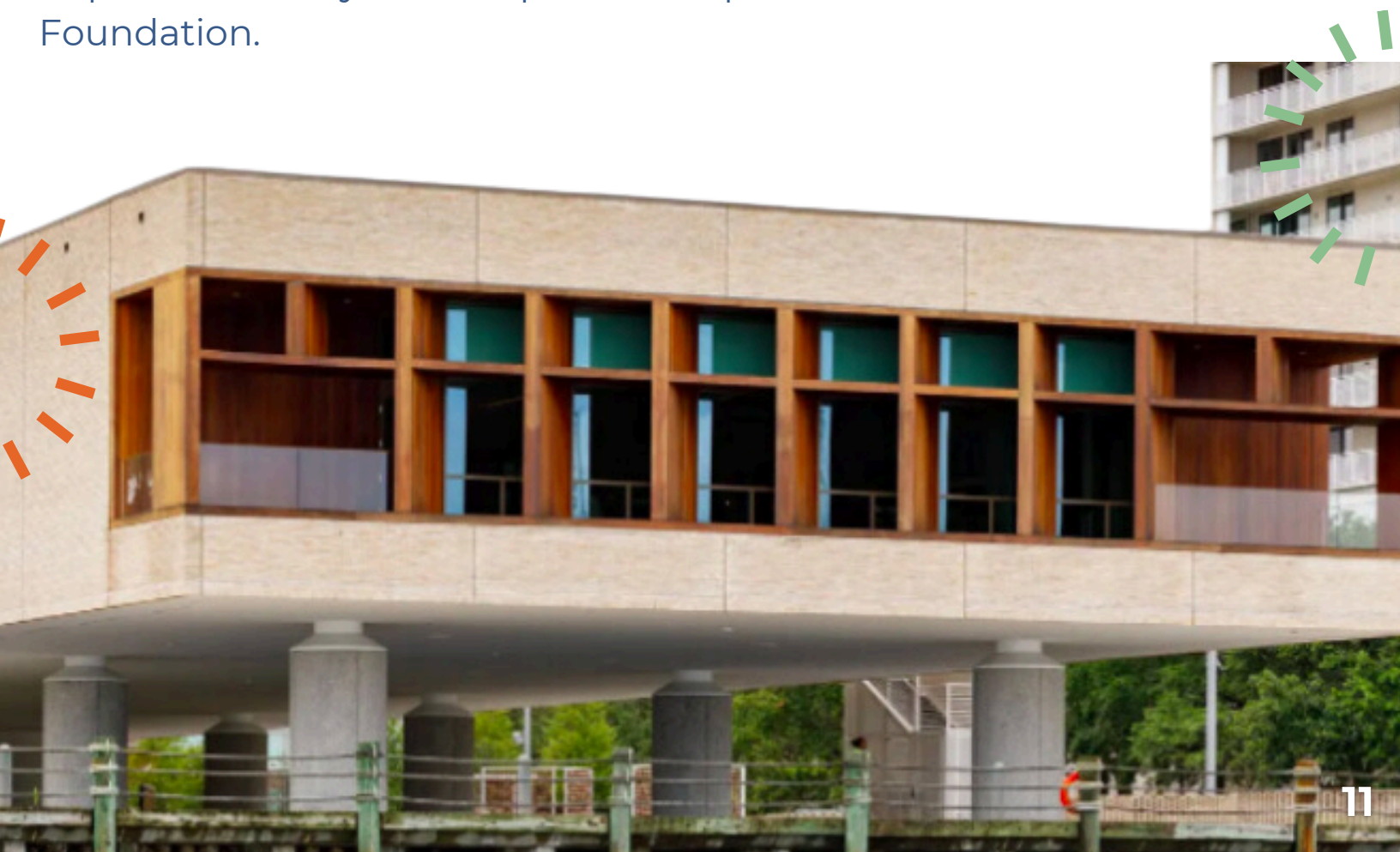
MISSION & VALUES



A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

In April, the Foundation hosted a field trip for board members and staff to the International African American Museum. The museum sits on Gadsden's Wharf, the largest single point of entry into North America for enslaved Africans between 1783 – 1807.

In keeping with the Foundation's commitment to continuous learning, this museum visit provided a better understanding of a critical part of not only American history but more specifically South Carolina history. The IAAM tells the unvarnished stories of the African American experience through nine distinct galleries that explore the trauma and triumph that gave rise to a resilient people who are still impacted by this history. This trip also gave staff and board an opportunity to learn important history that shapes and impacts the mission of the Foundation.



LEARNING TOGETHER

A VISIT FROM DR. DESMOND

In 2024, the staff and board read *Poverty, By America* by Dr. Matthew Desmond as part of our ongoing commitment to deepen our understanding of the complexities of poverty.

Dr. Desmond's book offers a critical examination of the structural forces that perpetuate poverty in America, challenging us to think beyond traditional charitable solutions and focus on addressing the root causes of inequality and injustice.

The Foundation welcomed Dr. Desmond to South Carolina, hosting him for a keynote lecture for over 200 statewide community and nonprofit leaders. The event, "Dispelling Myths and Finding Solutions to Poverty in America," centered opportunities for strengthening a collective response and strategy to reducing poverty.



A VISIT FROM DR. DESMOND

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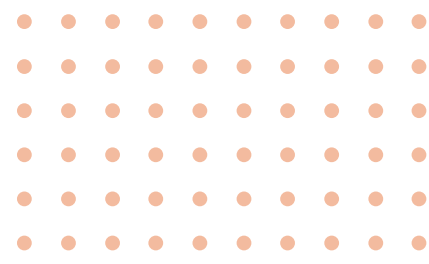
Dr. Desmond challenged those of us working to reduce poverty to change the narrative around people who are experiencing poverty and instead elevate the need to examine who benefits from poverty. As a Catholic organization dedicated to reducing poverty, we believe it is essential to engage with thought leaders and research that push us to reflect on our approach, ensuring that our work is informed by the latest insights and is aligned with the social justice principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

“POVERTY ISN’T SIMPLY THE CONDITION OF NOT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY. IT’S THE CONDITION OF NOT HAVING ENOUGH CHOICE AND BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF BECAUSE OF THAT.” — *Dr. Matthew Desmond*



EXTERNAL

ENGAGEMENT



This year, the Foundation engaged in research initiatives to elevate qualitative data to center lived experiences. In order to deepen our understanding of poverty, we sought to capture insights that quantitative data alone cannot fully express.

We partnered with two organizations, the **Center for Applied Research and Evaluation at the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health** and **Mpowrd Analytics**, to gather perspectives on poverty from individuals across our state.

By conducting individual interviews and gathering narratives from those directly affected by poverty, these data give a voice to those who are most impacted by poverty, allowing their perspectives to shape policies, interventions, and public discourse in a way that is more empathetic and grounded in reality.

By prioritizing lived experiences, qualitative research helps us highlight how intersectionality plays a role in shaping access to resources, opportunities, and support systems. This nuanced perspective is instructing the Foundation to develop targeted strategies around our grantmaking and advocacy work that address the unique challenges of poverty, informed by the community. The reports from this year of research will be released in 2025.

ULTIMATELY, WE BELIEVE ELEVATING QUALITATIVE DATA ENSURES THAT POVERTY RESEARCH IS NOT JUST ABOUT NUMBERS, BUT ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND STORIES THAT OFTEN GO UNHEARD.



Provided: SC Fair Lending Alliance



Provided: The Sustainability Institute



Provided: United Ministries



Provided: Brothers Restoring Urban Hope

GRANTMAKING HIGHLIGHTS



The Foundation continues to partner with organizations throughout the state that serve individuals and families experiencing poverty through several areas of grant funding: Meeting **Immediate Needs**, **Breaking the Cycle** of Poverty, and **Systems Level Change**. Additionally, the Foundation allocates grant funding specifically for Healthy Learners and the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, both designated as Family Ministries of the Sisters of Charity Health System.

The Foundation's grantmaking approach remained rooted in strategies designed for effective, focused, and mission-driven grantmaking:

- **Strategically** align grantmaking framework and Foundation resources to increase the Foundation's impact, focusing intentionally on the areas of breaking the cycle of poverty and systems level change.
- **Steward resources** effectively and efficiently through continued refinement of grants management infrastructure.
- **Cultivate** a positive, value-aligned experience for applicants and grantee partners.



GRANTMAKING HIGHLIGHTS



25 new
grantee partners

\$2.87
million

in grant funding disbursed
to nonprofits across
South Carolina

60.2% of 2024 grants dollars
provided to **systems level
change** and **breaking the
cycle of poverty** grantees

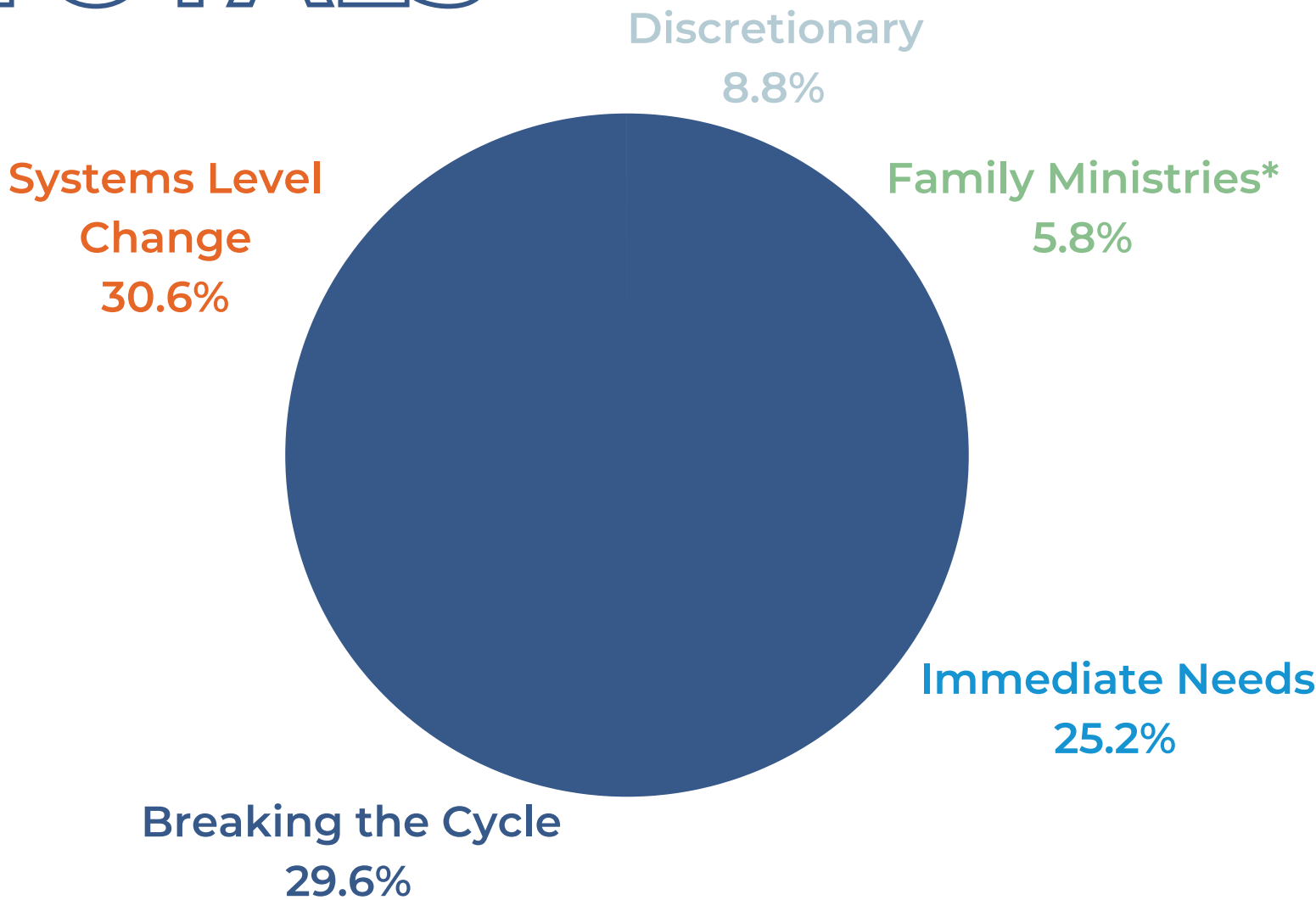
214
TOTAL
GRANTS



ALL
46 COUNTIES
SERVED



GRANTMAKING TOTALS



Category	2024 Grants
Family Ministries*	\$165,000
Discretionary	\$252,000
Systems Level Change	\$880,000
Breaking the Cycle	\$850,000
Immediate Needs	\$725,000
TOTAL	\$2,872,000

*Family Ministries are Healthy Learners and South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, both entities founded by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine.

GRANTEE

PARTNERS

Alston Wilkes Society
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (Cover SC)
American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina Foundation
Anderson Free Clinic
Anderson Interfaith Ministries (AIM)
Angels Charge Ministry
Area Churches Serving Together (ACTS)
Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired SC
Avery C. Thompson Sr. Community Center
Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic
Beaufort-Jasper YMCA of the Lowcountry
Berkeley County First Steps
Bethel Men's Shelter
Beyond Abuse
Beyond Our Walls
Big Brothers Big Sisters Upstate
Black Economic Leadership League of Rock Hill (BELL)
Bluffton Jasper County Volunteers in Medicine
Bluffton Self Help
Bridges For End-Of-Life
Brothers Restoring Urban Hope
Camp Happy Days
Care House of the Pee Dee
Carolina Human Reinvestment (CHRSC)
Catholic Charities of South Carolina - Immigration Services
Central Midlands Justice Ministry
Charleston Area Justice Ministry
Charleston Climate Coalition
Charleston Legal Access
Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services
Charleston Promise Neighborhood
Cherokee County Meals On Wheels
Children's Attention Home
Children's Recovery Center
Classroom Central
Clover Area Assistance Center
Cola Town Bike Collective
Communities in Schools of South Carolina
Community Foundation Of Greenville
(Greenville Homeless Alliance)
Community Initiatives
Community Kitchen of Myrtle Beach
Community Medical Clinic of Kershaw County
CommunityWorks
Compass Of Carolina
Cooperative Ministry
Dillon County First Steps
Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center
E3 (Educate, Empower, Elevate)
East Cooper Community Outreach
Economic Policy Institute
Edisto Indian Free Clinic
EmmanuWheel
Equal Justice Works
Family Promise of Aiken County
Family Support Services of Horry County
Felician Center
Feonix Mobility Rising
First Impression
Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina
Foothills Family Resources
Fort Lawn Community Center
Free Medical Clinic of Aiken
Free Medical Clinic of Newberry County
Freedom Readers
Friendship Medical Clinic and Pharmacy
Georgetown University
(South Carolina Justice Navigator Network, Georgetown Law)
Golden Corner Food Pantry
Good Neighbor Medical Clinic
Good Samaritan Clinic
Good Shepherd Free Medical Clinic of Laurens County
Great Falls Referral and Assistance Service Project
Greenville County Interfaith Justice Network
Greenville Free Medical Clinic
Greenville Housing Fund
Greenville Literacy Association
Greenville Tech Foundation (African American Male Scholars Initiative)
Greer Relief & Resources Agency, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of York County
HELP of Summerville
Helping and Lending Outreach Support (HALOS)
Helping Hand of Myrtle Beach
Helping Hands of Georgetown
Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour
Hispanic Alliance
Homeless No More
Homeless Period Project
Homes of Hope
HomeWorks of America
Hope In Lancaster
HOPE Missions of the Upstate
Hopeful Horizons
Housing Development Corporation of Rock Hill
i58
ICNA Relief USA, Shifa Free Clinic
Increasing H.O.P.E.
Institute For Child Success
James Island Outreach
Jasmine Road
Jewish Family Services of Greater Charleston
Kershaw Area Resource Exchange (KARE)
Kindred Hearts SC
KNOW(2)
Koinonia of Columbia

GRANTEE

PARTNERS

CONTINUED

Landmark for Families
(formerly Carolina Youth Development Center)

Latino Communications

Laurens County Cancer Association

Lighthouse Ministries

Lions Vision Services

LiveWell Greenville

Loaves & Fishes

Lowcountry Food Bank

Lowcountry Legal Volunteers

Lowcountry Local First

Lowcountry Youth Services

Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas

Meals on Wheels of Greenville

Meals on Wheels of Summerville

Metanoia Community Development Corporation

Middle Tyger Community Center

Midlands Housing Alliance

Midlands Mediation Center

Mill Community Ministries

Miss Ruby's Kids

My Sister's House

Nehemiah Community Revitalization Corporation

Neighbor to Neighbor of South Carolina

Neighborhood Cancer Connection

Neighborhood Focus

Netroots Foundation

New Directions of Horry County

North Carolina Clean Energy Fund

North Charleston Dental Outreach

Northside Development Corporation

One80 Place

Operation Home

Operation Sight

Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services

Palmetto Community Health Care Center

Palmetto Place Children and Youth Services

Palmetto Project

Partners For Active Living

Pendleton Place

Pickens County Advocacy Center

Pickens County Meals on Wheels

Power In Changing

Pregnancy Center and Clinic of the Low Country

Public Education Partners

Rebuild Upstate

Richland County Public Education Partners

Richland Library

Root & Rebound

Safe Harbor

Second Chance Bikes

Second Helpings

Senior Resources

Servants for Sight

Serve & Connect

Sistercare

Smith Medical Clinic

Soteria Community Development Corporation

South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

South Carolina Coastal Conservation League

South Carolina Environmental Law Project

South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association

South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health

South Carolina Technical College System Foundation

Southeastern Chapter National Safety Council

St. Cyprian Outreach

St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic

Step by Step Ministry Hope Project

Student Action with Farmworkers

Taylor's Free Medical Clinic

Teach For America - South Carolina

Teach My People

Teachers' Supply Closet

The ARK of South Carolina

The Aspen Institute (Criminal Justice Reform Initiative)

The Center for Community Self-Help

The Children's Center

The Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center

The Free Medical Clinic

The Green Heart Project

The Life House Women's Shelter

The Naomi Project

The Sustainability Institute

The Village Group

Time Served

Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative

Trident Literacy Association

Trident United Way

Turn90

Turning Pages SC

Undue Medical Debt (formerly RIP Medical Debt)

United Ministries

United Way of Greenville County (On Track Greenville)

United Way of Horry County

United Way of Kershaw County

United Way of Lancaster County

United Way of the Midlands

United Way of the Piedmont

United Way of York County

University of South Carolina (PASOs)

University of South Carolina Educational Foundation- FoodShare

Vision To Learn (Charleston)

Vital Aging of Williamsburg County

Volunteers in Medicine Hilton Head Island (VIM HHI)

We Are Family

Welvista

Wholespire

Windwood Farm

WINGS

Women's Rights And Empowerment Network

YMCA of Greenville (Judson Community Center)

YouthBASE

FINANCIAL ASSETS

2018

\$90,575,454

2019

\$100,053,315

2020

\$108,584,050

2021

\$112,898,417

2022

\$81,995,481

2023

\$94,131,957

2024

\$85,861,387



To our **grantee partners,**
community leaders, and
fellow advocates:

Thank you for making a
positive impact in the lives of all
those you serve and for your
genuine care for those
experiencing poverty.



SISTERS *of* CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA