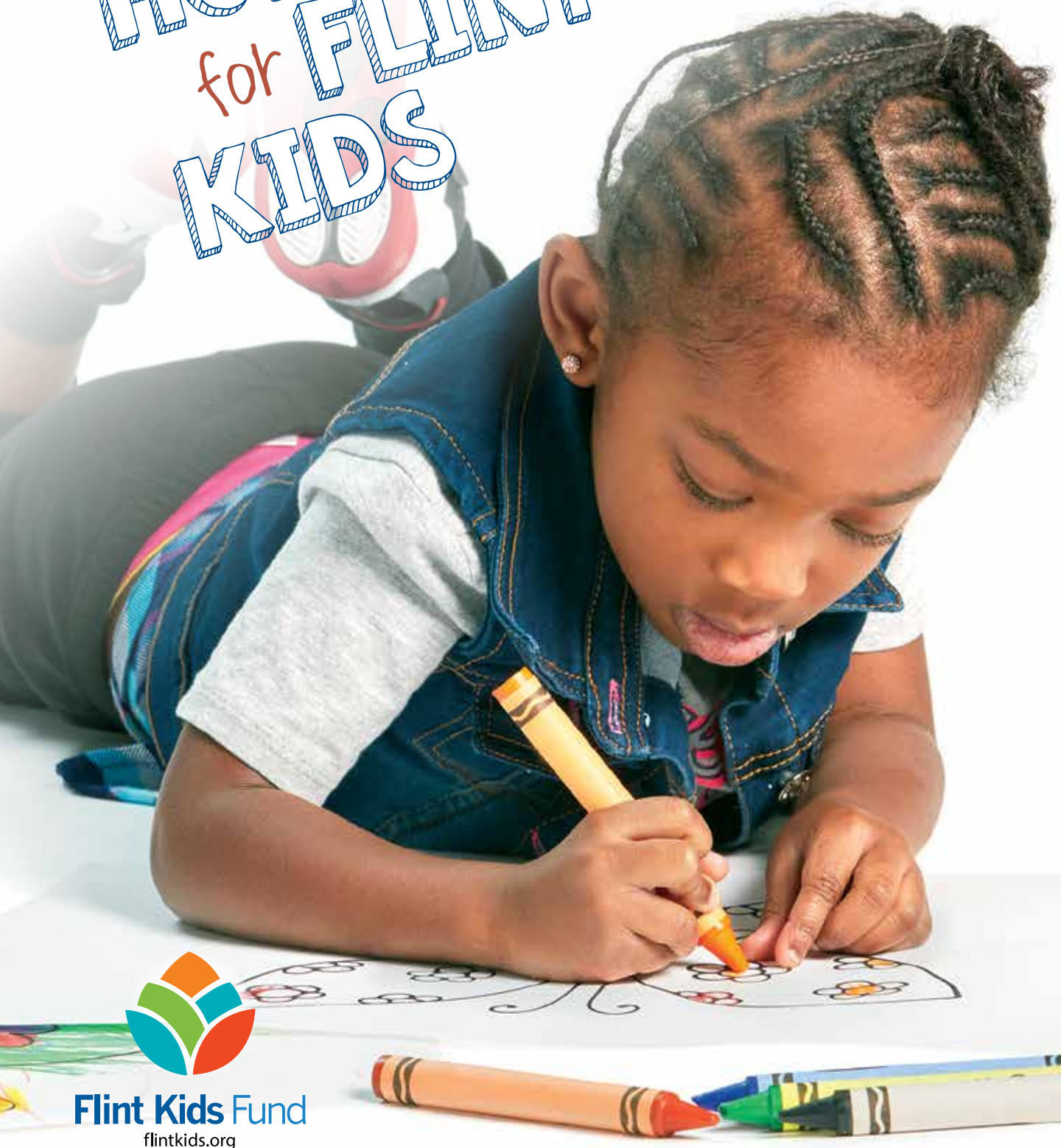


Making Their Mark:
HOPE
for **FLINT**
KIDS



Flint Kids Fund
flintkids.org



On May 13, 2016, the Community Foundation of Greater Flint established the Foundation for Flint as a supporting organization to assist in Flint's recovery from the water crisis. A 501(c)3 public charity, the Foundation for Flint raises and distributes resources to serve the long-term health and development needs of Flint children and their families through the Flint Child Health and Development Fund, also known as the Flint Kids Fund.

Foundation for Flint Board of Directors

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Hope for Flint Kids



“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Recent reports declare the drinking water in Flint is now in compliance with federal regulations on lead content. But the community remains afraid and uncertain. Feelings of betrayal and mistrust persist, and it will take years to completely remove all the lead from Flint homes and city plumbing systems.

With each passing month, residents continue to struggle with anxieties caused by or exacerbated by the crisis. The ongoing nature of this public health crisis, and its man-made origin, layer on top of years of progressive economic depression. Parents are experiencing worry and stress about their children’s long-term physical and mental health, behavior, and learning capacity.

With your support we established the Flint Child Health and Development Fund, dedicated to serving Flint’s most vulnerable residents. We’ve distributed \$4.9 million to programs designed specifically to mitigate the effects of lead exposure. We feel fortunate to share your support with local nonprofit organizations that are providing needed services to Flint residents in their homes and in the community.

Your contributions continue to keep Flint kids, and their hopes and dreams, at the center of our efforts. Thank you for your continued support.





Living Room Conversations Get Personal

Monica Wilson's home is where the extended family gathers. So it was only natural for the family to meet there for a "Living Room Conversation" with staff from Church Without Walls/WOW Outreach. In the comfort of their living room, Monica's family opened up about their frustrations about the water crisis and the concerns they have for her children, ages 10, 17 and 18.

“Everyone was on the same accord, asking the same questions,” said Wilson. “We learned a lot.” For Monica, her sister, cousin, and mother, the living room conversation was beneficial and the meal that followed was a special treat. The family learned about new programs and services that were available to them. The double-up food bucks program, for example, allows the family to access healthy fruits and vegetables for free using their SNAP food benefit.

Conversations like this are happening across Flint under the direction of Tenesa Thompson, Administrator of WOW Outreach. The organization has connected 82 adults with needed services and is proud of the results.

- A mother, with legitimate concern, had been waiting two months for her sons' lead testing results. WOW staff called the testing facility on her behalf, and she received the results in two days.
- A single mother of four was looking for a positive environment for her teenage son. He is now enrolled in the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Flint.

“We hold conversations over a warm, healthy meal,” Thompson said. “Discussions over a tasty meal tend to be more comforting and encouraging. We help families navigate through the red tape that they may have grown leery of. We also give them a \$50 VISA gift card for their time, which is greatly appreciated.”

Today, Monica and her family enjoy visiting the Flint Farmers' Market where they use their double-up food benefit to buy son Alereo's favorites – broccoli, carrots, grapes and oranges. Like all mothers, Monica has big hopes and dreams for her children, and believes they will leave their mark on the world.

“I want them to see the world. I want them to be the best they can be!”



\$20,000
to connect families
to resources



► From left, Alereo Wilson, 10, Monica Wilson and Anita Wilson

\$275,000

to expand mindfulness
programs





Staying Present in the Moment

For five minutes each day the classroom is quiet and students take a mindful moment ... a yoga pose, taking deep breaths or focusing on the quiet. This mindfulness practice helps students become more self-aware and better regulate their emotions and behavior.

The Crim Fitness Foundation's Mindfulness Initiative is intended to help alleviate chronic stress and lessen the traumatic impact of the water crisis on Flint students, parents and educators. "Mindfulness is paying attention, on purpose, in the present moment, non-judgmentally," explained Sarah Sullivan, Crim Mindfulness Program Director. "When the water crisis hit, the positive impacts of mindfulness became even more important as Flint students were confronted with the potential of cognitive difficulties due to prolonged lead exposure."

Today, 23 schools in five districts offer mindfulness training and programming to teachers and students in kindergarten through sixth grade. In the 2016-2017 school year, 3,357 students participated. And three schools are taking mindfulness to the next level by developing Mindfulness Centers where students can elect to spend 20 minutes a day practicing yoga, guided visualizations, or simply taking some quiet time to refocus before returning to class ready to learn.

The Crim's research team is studying the program. Teachers are reporting benefits such as:

- An increase in cooperative and prosocial behavior
- Improved regulation of emotions
- Fewer behavior problems
- Greater sense of empowerment

Elizabeth Wise is a mindfulness instructor at Durant Tuuri Mott Elementary School in Flint. "When practicing mindfulness with students in the classroom, I see an almost immediate physical response," she said. "I see a softening in their faces, and the chest and shoulders relaxing. It is amazing how willing and eager children are to drop into a calm space. Little invitation is needed, they know the routine and readily allow themselves to settle into quiet and stillness."

She says all her students love doing yoga, and she observes them making a connection between their movements and breath. "They are noticing how using their breath can help them remain calm and make better choices. Students welcome the opportunity to sit quietly with focused attention, even just for a moment."

► Ke'Andre Cummings, 8, and instructor Elizabeth Wise



Seeking Help and Answers

She knocked on the church doors not knowing what to expect. She needed help and had no place to turn. Homeless, cold and hungry, she had nothing but the clothes on her back.

She was welcomed to First Presbyterian Church by Lisa Home, LMSW, who serves as Director of Community Ministry. As a church in the heart of the city, First Presbyterian believes it has an obligation to serve those in need. The Community Ministry program routinely helps Flint residents with food, clothing, personal care and household items. But Tychemises Butler and her 5-year-old daughter needed more.

“While new programs are available to assist families impacted by the water crisis, many agencies have implemented policies that mandate families to verify age, relationship, identity and citizenship by requesting valid and certified documents as proof,” explained Home. “This makes securing services a taxing step for many residents.”

Enter the Ministry’s Bridge to Access program, a safety net to provide funds for legal documents and transportation. For those seeking water crisis-related services, valid identification is often a minimal requirement and the cost to obtain the documents can be a barrier.

“Oftentimes, people in distressed situations give up because of difficulty navigating social service systems,” Home said. “Many meet the guidelines, but they lack the financial resources to use the services. This project helps to limit some of those unfortunate realities for the people we serve.”

Grant funds are helping to secure legal documents like birth records, identification cards or driver’s licenses that can range from \$10 to \$50 each. Local MTA bus passes help people get to the agencies for needed assistance. Up to 400 individuals will be served by the project.

“I just need help for me and my daughter,” said Butler. “Lisa is a nice lady. She welcomes people and is respectful. She’s helping me so I can access housing through HUD.”

“Our doors are open and we hope to reduce some of the stress that families are already experiencing,” Home added.

▶ From left, Lisa Home, LMSW, Myiah Butler, 5, and Tychemises Butler

WM \$20,000

to access needed documents



W

\$28,500

to upgrade exhibits



Creative Play is Fun

An exciting, new, interactive exhibit awaits visitors to the Flint Children's Museum (FCM), an organization that has been providing hands-on play and learning for nearly 40 years. Big Blue Blocks combine all the benefits of block play on a larger-than-life scale, encouraging kids to play together in groups and have more fun.

“Families impacted by the water crisis are looking for ways to access high quality developmental and educational experiences for their children,” said Kimberly Roddy, Executive Director of FCM. “The Museum is designed to encourage exploration, creativity and social interactions that support positive health outcomes, both cognitive and physical.”

Children enjoy the Big Blue Blocks set which includes cubes, bricks, cogs, curves and cylinders. The parts have holes and shapes that fit together in ways that allow for building, stacking, channeling and connecting.

“They inspire children to design their own inventions, environments and activities,” said Roddy. “Children enjoy an endless variety of play patterns including construction, pretend play, role-playing and inventing their own games. Most importantly, they are deeply engaged, active and have hours of fun.”

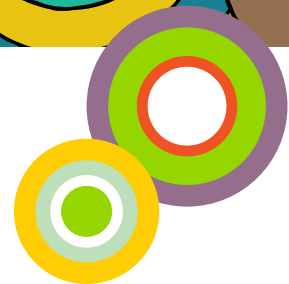
A travel-size version of the Big Blue Blocks is transported to community events like Back to the Bricks where Museum staff can interact with children and adults, and encourage interaction with the blocks and each other. FCM looks forward to partnering with other mobile efforts that have emerged in response to the water crisis such as the University of Michigan's Pop-Up Preschool, Flint Fresh Mobile Market, and Genesee Health Systems' Mobile Mental Health Unit.

“Over the summer, we exhibited the Big Blue Blocks at 13 community events and school functions. At these events, our play educators facilitated, played and learned with more than 760 children and adults,” Roddy said. “We also installed the Big Blue Blocks and new rubber flooring in our rotating exhibit area known as Discovery Zone. Since opening to the public, more than 7,750 children and their caregivers have explored, built and learned with the new exhibit. Surveys from guests indicate an overall rating of 5.6 on a six-point scale, which we consider a success.”

▶ From left, Patrick John Metcalfe, Jr., 9; Brielle Nicole Younger, 1; John Ingraham, 8; Lucas Eldredge, 9



Meeting Families Where They Are



Two-year-old Sincere Smith's photograph appeared on the cover of Time magazine in February 2016. For his mother, Ariana Hawk, seeing the photo made her think about the challenges and struggles he was going through and what other Flint children were facing. The sickness, rashes, pain and hurt were all too real for her family. So she moved out of Flint.

“**T**he lead exposure was a lot. I felt like we needed to get away from the whole environment but we missed being home,” said Hawk. “I’m glad we’re back. I’m just hoping we can have safe and affordable water.”

Today, she and her three children are benefiting from services provided by Genesee Health System’s (GHS) mobile mental health clinic, a 36-foot counseling facility on wheels. The mobile health team includes case managers and therapists who provide sessions to patients suffering from anxiety, depression, frustration and hopelessness. Hawk has formed a special relationship with Melissa Mays, a GHS Family Navigator.

“A lot of parents don’t know where to start when it comes to working with other agencies, especially when there is a feeling of hopelessness,” explained Mays. “There are so many families with needs, but they don’t know where to start when they are in crisis.”

Referrals are frequently made to the Department of Health and Human Services, water distribution sites, housing programs, food pantries, medical services, and insurance and bill payment assistance. After making referrals, GHS staff follow up to ensure individuals are connected to necessary services.

“There are a lot of resources out there that families are not aware of,” Mays said. “Our goal is to have parents become their own strong advocate. It’s a terrible thing that happened to us, but the kids are strong and are going to come out of this.”

Hawk hopes for the day she can say, “My water is clean and I can drink a glass of water from the tap. I also hope my kids can play with water hoses in the summer. We took that for granted before.”



► From left, Sincere Smith, 4, Ebony Dunigan, LLMFT, clinical therapist, and Aliana Hawk, 3

\$200,000

to support
mobile clinic



Flint Kids Grantmaking Nears

Knowing that the need is great and immediate, the Flint Child Health and Development Fund Advisory Committee advised \$2,944,100 in grants in 2017. Many of the grant awards supported the Committee's grant strategy of increasing family social and emotional supports. As of December 31, 2017, the Committee has approved \$4,936,300 in grants from the Fund. A complete list of 2017 grants, their purpose and amount, is listed below.

GRANT STRATEGY

Increase access to high quality early education for children

Child Care Network Regional 4C **\$250,000**

Expand scholarships to help families pay for high quality child care; training and support provided through the Great Start to Quality Southeast Resource Center for licensed and soon to be licensed child care programs; and support provided to unlicensed family, friend and neighbor care.

Child Connect for Family Success **\$26,000**

Provide 26 early childhood professionals with the opportunity to complete an Early Childhood Development Associate credential.

Flint Children's Museum **\$28,500**

Upgrade exhibits to help promote positive cognitive development for children throughout the city of Flint.

University of Michigan-Flint **\$300,000**

Provide accessible, high quality, early childhood play-based literacy, math and science education to toddlers, preschool-aged children and their parents/guardians in their neighborhoods through a Pop-Up School.

Mott Community College **\$224,000**

Address the needs of current and future Mott Community College (MCC) student-parents and their children through a two-generation approach, by preserving and expanding the capacity of MCC Early Childhood Learning Center's Young Preschool through scholarships and subsidies to increase student-parent access to high quality child care.

Flint Community Schools **\$20,600**

Support the addition of a Montessori Great Start Readiness Program pre-kindergarten class for 4-year-olds as part of the Flint Community Schools' expansion of its public Montessori program.

GRANT STRATEGY

Provide access to education regarding healthy food and nutrition

Fair Food Network **\$250,000**

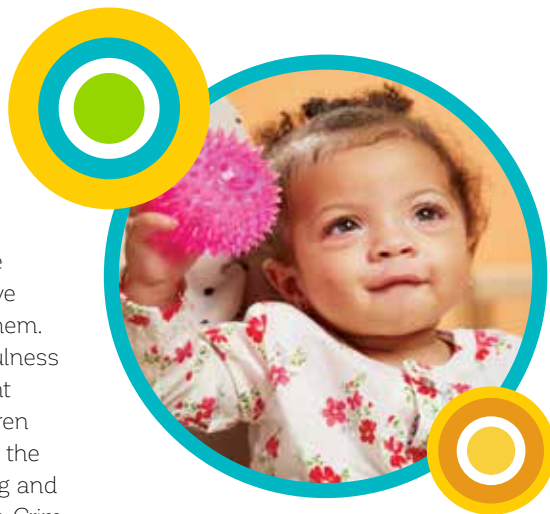
Increase healthy food access and affordability for the children and families of Flint while creating a healthy food incentive program that is efficient, sustainable and optimally placed to inform state and federal food policy.

Genesee Chamber Foundation **\$110,000**

Complete pre-development work for the new construction of two independent, local grocery stores in north Flint.



\$5 Million Mark



Michigan Breastfeeding Network **\$125,000**

Support 310 Connect: A Flint Collective Impact Breastfeeding project which aims to improve health and neurodevelopment outcomes in the Flint area by addressing barriers to breastfeeding initiation and continuation.

GRANT STRATEGY

Improve access to a medical home and a child health team for all children and pregnant mothers, to ensure in part that all children are provided with robust developmental assessment and support

Hurley Foundation **\$160,000**

Renewal of the Nurse Family Partnership program which provides early health and developmental interventions for mothers and children. Each mother is partnered with a registered nurse and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through the children's second birthday.

GRANT STRATEGY

Increase family social and emotional support as well as family literacy and parenting skills

Church Without Walls Ministries **\$20,000**

Empower, impact and connect families with appropriate resources and opportunities while strengthening the relationship and communication between families, educators and human service providers.

Crim Fitness Foundation **\$275,000**

Expand Mindfulness programming

to 10 schools in Genesee County who primarily have Flint children attending them. In addition, renew Mindfulness programs to reach all Flint Community School children as a tool to help address the impacts of lead poisoning and environmental stress. The Crim will also educate the public about Mindfulness and its benefits starting with a community-wide symposium, featuring internationally known Mindfulness researchers and experts.

Mott Community College **\$240,000**

Launch a two-generation family literacy program in 3-4 sites through the Flint & Genesee Literacy Network.

First Presbyterian Church **\$20,000**

Help Flint families with children impacted by the water crisis to secure legal documents (birth records, identification cards, driver's licenses) and transportation to access health and social services.

Flint Community Schools **\$100,000**

Create 58 kindergarten through second grade classroom literacy centers in Flint Community Schools.

Genesee Intermediate School District **\$279,000**

Strengthen the language and literacy skills of families impacted by the water crisis, in coordination with the Flint Public Library's implementation of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

United Way of Genesee County **\$296,000**

Build two new playgrounds in the city of Flint at Hasselbring and Broome Parks in 2017; and build six new playgrounds in the city of Flint in 2018.

Genesee Health System **\$200,000**

Support for the Community Support and Resiliency Program (CRSP), an accessible, culturally-sensitive, community-wide approach to building resiliency, coping and socio-emotional skills. CRSP will provide community-wide resiliency events and workforce training supports, in addition to individual, group and family counseling, which will be provided through a mobile clinic.

R.J. Jones Community Outreach **\$20,000**

Provide recovery and mitigation services to residents of north Flint, particularly targeting small children, disconnected youth and the homebound.

Total 2017 Grantmaking:
\$2,944,100

Total Grantmaking
Since Fund Inception:
\$4,936,300

Campaign for Flint Kids

The campaign for the children of Flint continues. This comprehensive, forward-thinking effort seeks to meet the long-term health, development and education needs of Flint children and their families by supporting programs necessary to ensure the children of Flint succeed.

We are raising resources for what is essential for children to thrive:

- High quality early education
- Healthy food and nutrition
- A medical home and child health team
- Family, social and emotional support

Today, the water system is improving and lead pipes are being replaced. But the crisis is still very real for Flint residents who cannot drink water from the tap. Thankfully, resources like the Flint Kids Fund are making a difference in the lives of Flint families. Thank you for caring for Flint children. We are grateful to all who have supported the fund. For brevity we have included donors who have contributed \$1,000 or more to the Flint Kids Fund in 2017.

Note: A list of all donors to the Flint Child Health and Development Fund is available online at flintkids.org.



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Foundation - Benevity

Community Impact Fund

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Flint Child Health and Development Fund

\$18.5 MILLION IN

\$4.9 MILLION OUT

20,647 GIFTS

7,746 GIFTS
FROM MICHIGAN

50 STATES

15 COUNTRIES

GIFTS BY SOURCE



\$8,100,275

Private Foundations



\$5,155,201

Businesses and
Organizations



\$3,323,694

Individuals



\$1,106,397

Corporate Foundations



\$561,142

Family Foundations/
Donor Advised Funds



\$284,640

Community
Foundations

GRANTS BY PRIORITY AREA



41%

Family Support



32%

Early Education



21%

Healthy Food
& Nutrition



6%

Access to Medical Home


Educare Flint

Spotlight on Early Childhood Education

Educare Flint, a new, state-of-the-art school for Flint children ages 0-5, opened its doors to students on December 4, 2017. Launched in the wake of the Flint water crisis as part of an urgent effort to increase access to early childhood education, the school serves 220 Flint children from birth to age 5 each year.


The school will play an important role in efforts underway to improve the quality and variety of early childhood education opportunities available to Flint kids — from cradle to college and career. It will also link students, their families and other residents with community-based services. And by offering professional development opportunities to all early learning and child care providers located in Flint, the school will help to strengthen the quality of early care throughout the community.

Enrollment is currently focused on children who live in Flint now and who also lived in the city during the period of potential lead exposure. Students' families must also meet income requirements related to the state and federal funding streams that support participation in the program. Enrollment is free for those who qualify.



The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation provided \$11 million in grants to support construction of the 36,000-square-foot facility. The building is owned by Flint Kids Learn, a supporting organization of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. The Genesee Intermediate School District operates Educare Flint.

Other partners who helped launch, support or implement the Educare model in Flint include Flint Community Schools, Michigan State University, the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and the University of Michigan–Flint.



Educare Flint is a wonderful example of the good that can be accomplished when partners from different sectors with different expertise come together to invest in a better tomorrow for our children. We are excited to see the difference this school will make for all children in Flint.

Photo credit: Rick Smith

Advisory Committee Leads Grant Strategy for Flint Kids Fund

Grants from the Flint Kids Fund are advised by an eight-member advisory committee, many of whom are Flint residents. Grants from the Fund support nonprofit organizations that provide interventions and support positive outcomes for Flint children. We are grateful to the Advisory Committee for its dedication and support.

George Wilkinson, Chair

Mona Hanna-Attisha, M.D., MPH, FAAP

Kenyetta Dotson

Jamie Gaskin

Wanda Harden

Diana Kelly

Lawrence A. Reynolds, M.D., FAAP

Kirk D. Smith

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