In 1998, April Browning caught the bug.

“The first actual business I got into was Pampered Chef, buying and selling equipment, and that’s where I got my first taste of being my own boss. We’ve always had something going on on the side, and I liked the flexibility of doing what I wanted to do,” says April, a resident of Hamlin, WV.

Through the years, April jumped from one side hustle to the next—trying photography, personalized jewelry and crafts, and other business ideas—until she landed on a lasting venture, Carnivore BBQ. What started out as a competition barbecue team with her family has grown into a full-fledged business. April’s barbecue food truck travels to fairs and festivals and she offers catering for meetings and events.

“In 2017, we started with two tents, a smoker, and a dream,” April says, laughing. “We never dreamt it would go this far, and I’m glad that it has, I’m loving everything about it.”

When talking about the successful growth of her business, April cites three things: the support of her husband, Jonathan, and sons, Joshua and Jared; the support of her community; and her participation in the WV Community Development Hub’s Energizing Entrepreneurial Communities (E-Communities) program.

April’s next big step is bottling her barbecue sauce. Whenever she serves her barbecue, customers comment on how much they love the sauce and ask if they can buy it. Through the E-Communities program, April connected with the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing and the WV Department of Agriculture, and both groups are supporting her as she takes the leap to start producing her own sauce. She expects to begin distributing the barbecue sauce to local markets as well as making sales on her own this summer.

Emma Pepper
Director of Strategic Network Communications for the West Virginia Community Development Hub
At The Hub, we believe in creating solutions to community challenges that invest in leaders like April. What if engaged residents in towns across West Virginia devoted their energy to creating the culture needed to inspire more people like April to step forward and create their own livelihoods? What would it take to create momentum toward this end? This is the challenge The Hub is addressing through the coaching and community development programs, like E-Communities, that we offer to communities across the state.

April is just one of many local leaders currently participating in four designated E-Communities: Madison/Danville, Grafton, Lincoln County, and Wyoming County. As part of the program, April is not only learning about resources to connect with to grow her own business, she is working with a team of people to support the growth of an entrepreneurial culture for her entire community. Through trainings, connections to resource providers, mini-grants for community projects, and coaching to support the creation of lasting community groups in the spirit of these efforts, April and her peers working in E-Communities teams are building a bright future with fellow West Virginians.

April believes in giving back to the community that is supporting her, and we believe in April.

The Energizing Entrepreneurial Communities in Boone and Lincoln Counties: Phase II has been made possible in part by a 2018 grant from The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation.

Find April on Facebook at Carnivore BBQ and read more stories about the E-Communities program on The Hub’s website: wvhub.org

Emma Pepper, a native of Charleston, WV, is the Director of Strategic Network Communications for the West Virginia Community Development Hub. Emma’s career spans 10+ years with a focus on marketing, communications, and public relations in the nonprofit sector. She specializes in planning + troubleshooting strategic branding and communications initiatives for organizations working with restricted budgets. In her role with The Hub, Emma oversees a training and technical assistance program to support communications capacity-building for nonprofit and community groups across the state. Emma is a graduate of West Virginia University, serves on the marketing committee for Charleston Main Streets, and is a published writer and essayist. She returned to West Virginia in 2013 after building her career in Washington, DC and Berkeley, CA.
An annual $1 million non-endowed, anonymous gift to The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation (TGKVF) is symbolic of a new movement in philanthropy. The annual gift started three years ago after the Foundation’s President and CEO shared our community’s critical needs with an interested benefactor, who was then inspired to partner with us as a TGKVF donor. Over the past two years, this partnership resulted in 53 grants to 37 organizations and we are thrilled to collaborate with this generous donor. Part of the Foundation’s role in this partnership is to remove barriers that may have inhibited the donor’s giving, which includes identifying eligible organizations working within the donor’s fields of interest. In this unique instance, with each year’s contribution the donor requested that we distribute the entire $1 million within 12 months.

In the New York Times article “4 Ways to Make Giving Large Donations to Small Groups Easier,” author Paul Sullivan references a recently released Bridgespan Group report on Four Pathways to Greater Giving. Bridgespan reported that many ultra-wealthy individuals and families (those who have $500 million or more in assets) indicate that they would like to give more to charity than just 1.2 percent of their assets as they did in 2017, but they experience many barriers to giving in their specific fields of interests.

This “giving gap” between what the ultra-wealthy can give and what they are giving has far-reaching implications. Over time, we have seen significant social advances when philanthropy, innovative nonprofits, and locally-led movements collaborate. Achieving civil rights for repressed populations and eliminating age-old infectious diseases are examples of these advances. Nevertheless, there are still many growing social problems that persist, and ultra-wealthy individuals and families can support innovative initiatives that could benefit millions. The Bridgespan Group identified four significant pathways to greater giving to social-change causes, which in this case includes human/social services, the environment, and international development. The pathways are 1) coming together to build a network; 2) finding ways to give directly to improve economic mobility; 3) developing high-quality support services, and 4) providing access to qualified grantees.

As President and CEO of The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, I find Sullivan’s article and the Bridgespan Group report very intriguing. With approximately $250 million in assets under management, TGKVF is the largest community foundation in Central Appalachia and ranks 82nd among community foundations nationwide. I believe TGKVF and our community foundation partners can play a role in shrinking the “giving gap” for individuals and families at all economic strata, not just the ultra-wealthy.

TGKVF currently serves as a navigator for generous individuals, families, and businesses interested in giving to social change organizations and nonprofits in general. Our staff, Board of Trustees, and volunteers have experience in creating each of the pathways Sullivan identified in his article.
**Coming together to build a network**

TGKVF has experience in convening dollars and donors to build a network. Gathering stakeholders around an issue is one of our key roles, and people often graciously show up when we invite them to the table. To maximize our impact, the Foundation networks statewide via Philanthropy West Virginia and throughout the Appalachian region via the Appalachia Funders Network. We are also a founding member of the Kanawha Valley Council on Philanthropy, which pools funding from various local donors to support projects locally. We have even facilitated the development of two giving circles, and a third is in the works.

**Finding ways to give directly to improve economic mobility**

As a community foundation, TGKVF is equipped to receive bequests and donations of all forms and sizes. With 56 years of history, the Foundation is adept at recognizing high-performing nonprofits that need funding and efficiently granting them the resources that they need to be effective. Education, health, community economic development, arts and culture, and basic needs are our discretionary grantmaking priorities, but donors can give to any cause that moves them. Through our discretionary grantmaking program, TGKVF works to serve and empower marginalized populations, including those with limited economic mobility.

**Developing high-quality support services**

TGKVF provides customized support to our donors and grantees, and a distinguished Board of Trustees locally controls us. We have specific expertise in grantmaking due diligence and local community needs that other giving platforms can’t offer. The Foundation’s professional staff are available to help donors identify nonprofits that are doing great work and meeting state and federal requirements. This level of quality support relieves the burden on donors of sifting through an array of organizations of varying capacities and track records.

**Providing access to qualified grantees**

The Foundation has an extensive history of grantmaking in West Virginia and we are culturally aware of the region we serve. We understand the needs of our community and have the agility to respond to them quickly. We help to grow different forms of local wealth, including individual, intellectual, social, built, political, natural, financial, and cultural assets. Assisting donors to find qualified grantees is at our core.

Individuals, families, and businesses may experience barriers when contemplating giving to social-change efforts. However, partnering with The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation can remove these barriers and make giving an easy, joyful experience. As a renowned philanthropist Betty Schoenbaum often said, “the joy of giving is the joy of living.”

*Reprinted from a Charleston Gazette-Mail Op-Ed.*

*Michelle Mickle Foster, Ph.D. is the President and CEO of The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation in Charleston, West Virginia.*
GRANTS UPDATE

Foundation Announces 2018 Fourth Quarter Discretionary Grants

Charleston, WV - The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation (TGKVF) Board of Trustees approved the distribution of 26 grants totaling $887,047. TGKVF is thankful for all the donors who made these grants possible.

One of these grants included support to KEYS 4 Healthy Kids to provide garden-based learning and fresh food access to child care centers. While visiting one of this summer’s pop-up farmers’ markets, held as part of the Farm 2 Child Care project, a child wanted additional food and asked about how to grow his food at home. The KEYS 4 Healthy Kids staff learned this child and his four brothers were experiencing food insecurity. As a result of working together, a farmer, KEYS staff, and WVU Extension developed a plan to assist this family. The farmer donated extra food for the brothers to take home for the weekend, and WVU Extension began discussions with the childcare center to offer low-cost cooking classes for families.

TGKVF awarded one field-of-interest and four responsive grants totaling $92,600 to Basic Needs and Arts & Culture programs; fifteen grants totaling $642,847 in the Foundation’s proactive priority areas of Education, Health, and Community Economic Development (CED); four West Side of Charleston Initiative grants totaling $123,600; and two special initiative grants for a total of $28,000.

**Coda Mountain Academy of Music-Coda’s Organizational Growth and Program Support: $42,119 (Education)**

This second-year project will continue Coda Mountain Academy’s innovative afterschool tutoring program, Coda Excel, which reinforces foundational concepts of the core curriculum through arts integration. This year’s focus on capacity building and development will increase program support and prepare for significant growth expected as a result of upcoming school consolidations. Coda is also building a stronger partnership with the health department in drug prevention strategies. Coda programs primarily serve Fayette County.

“Bella is learning ukulele and piano and doing a great job! She no longer needs an aide and strangers rarely notice she is autistic. She is bright, cheerful, focused and cooperative almost all of the time. I always look forward to her cheerful hug!” - Coda staff member

**TEAM for West Virginia Children, Inc.- Fostering Futures for Youth to Thrive: $10,500 (Education)**

In its second year of TGKVF support, this Western Regional CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) project will continue to provide mentoring and educational components for older adolescents in Kanawha, Lincoln, Putnam, and Boone counties. The program serves youth ages 14 to 23. Advocates work to improve post-secondary education readiness by connecting each participant with at least one caring, committed adult. The adults assist the youth in planning for their future. Funds will be used to support advocacy and mentoring efforts.

“The CASA volunteer and the youth have been discussing future goals and action steps to achieve them. This teenager plans to attend college.” -TEAM staff member
National Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education-College and Career Readiness Through Entrepreneurship and STREAM: $35,000 (Education)

In its second year with TGKVF, this project will provide educators from Boone, Fayette, and Lincoln counties with resources and support to increase their students’ college/career readiness. The project incorporates face-to-face teacher training, virtual sustained professional development, and implementation of Science Technology Reading Engineering Arts Math-focused entrepreneurial activities. Funding will support teacher stipends, teacher and school mini-grants, and Entrepreneurial School certification.

West Virginia Home Visitation Program-Parents as Teachers Home Visiting Program: $75,000 (Education)

The Parents as Teachers Home Visiting Program is an evidenced-based, school readiness intervention that has received its first grant award from TGKVF. These grant funds will support five new home visitors who will receive referrals from community partners. The program will annually support 100 new families and improve school readiness outcomes for at least 300 children. Additionally, home visitors will give each child a book during each home visit to promote reading. This funding will impact families in all six TGKVF counties.

Step by Step, Inc.-AmeriCorps on The Frontline: $50,000 (Education)

This is a fourth-year grant awarded for AmeriCorps on the Frontline, a dropout prevention, mentor-based intervention that addresses student attendance, behavior, and course performance. This program is available in Kanawha County through a partnership among Step by Step Inc., Bob Burdette Center, PRO-Kids Inc., Kanawha County Schools, and The Education Alliance. Funding will support the AmeriCorps mentors and program supplies.

The Appalachian Reading Center, Inc.-Dyslexia Services Coalition for Marginalized Youth in Foster and Kinship Care: $57,953 (Education)

This project, in its fourth year of funding from TGKVF, will provide specialized, high-quality afterschool tutoring to dyslexic and reading deficient youth in foster and kinship care in highly distressed areas, with a special emphasis on Clay County. Additionally, funds will be used to offer partial scholarships to dyslexic students who would not otherwise be able to afford the Appalachian Reading Center in South Charleston. Funds will also be used to hire a part-time Accommodations Specialist who will assist the Director in delivering alternate spelling lists to school teachers throughout the area. These lists reinforce dyslexic students’ work while they’re using the Wilson Reading System.

Empowering youth with entrepreneurship creates a culture shift in a community profoundly enriching local life by launching new ideas, offering new products and services and inspiring others.”

- Toi Hershman, Regional Coordinator at Entre-ED and Amber Ravenscroft, Program Manager for America’s Entrepreneurial Schools Initiative

“This month I witnessed the first audible words and 3 to 4-word sentences of a 31-month old boy. The family allowed Birth to Three to come into the home over the last 6 months even though they were apprehensive.”

- Parents as Teachers case worker

“During elementary graduation Barkley’s mother stated without the positive mentor support, enrollment in afterschool and the program connecting with her, Barkley would not have successfully made it through the school year.”

- AmeriCorps on the Frontline staff member

“Ahna is more confident and proud of herself. Spelling words are no longer a chore, but instead a way for her to prove what she knows. I am so thankful for the Appalachian Reading Center and their work to help my daughter and our family.”

- Julie Savilla, parent
Charleston Area Medical Center Health Education & Research Institute, Inc./Keys 4 Healthy Kids-Growing Healthy Kids through Farm 2 Child Care: $32,130 (Health)

In its fourth year of funding, Keys 4 Healthy Kids will continue to offer Farm 2 Child Care opportunities for childcare centers in Kanawha, Putnam, and Fayette counties, enabling them to continue garden-based learning while adding pop-up farmers’ markets. This project will address childhood obesity, food insecurity, and economic development through local farmers in West Virginia.

Fairness West Virginia Institute-WV Transgender Health Initiative: $25,125 (Health)

Fairness West Virginia (FWV) will address the significant health care disparities faced by transgender people through a series of training sessions for health care professionals in the six-county region covered by TGKVF. FWV will then compile the providers who have undergone training into a transgender-inclusive health care guide.

Alum Creek Lions Club Sight Foundation-Alum Creek Lions Club Park Project: $35,853 (Health)

This project is a community effort to improve park elements and increase the number and quality of community events that are hosted. The park is a popular community hub and serves residents of Lincoln and Kanawha counties. This funding will support the installation of a new donated play structure; resurfacing the basketball and tennis courts; the installation of signage to label and describe native plants; the installation of a maintenance shed; and the addition of natural learning elements.

American Heart Association-WV Stroke Systems of Care-Greater Kanawha Valley Region: $35,514 (Health)

In this newly funded initiative, the American Heart Association’s Stroke Systems of Care program will work with regional hospital and EMS partners in TGKVF’s six-county service area. The partners will collect and evaluate treatment data using Get With The Guidelines-Stroke, provide training to improve outcomes, and coordinate efforts to build and enhance the system of care for strokes through regional task group collaborations.

“In the summer of 2018, one child wanted additional food and asked about how to grow his own at home. Learning he and his four brothers had experienced food insecurity, the farmer, KEYS staff and WVU Extension developed a plan to assist this family.”
- KEYS 4 Healthy Kids staff member

“As we increase the visibility of our transgender population and their needs, we will also travel to our major academic institutions to conduct a grand-rounds-style presentation to inform and educate medical professionals, medical students and others.”
- Dr. Coy Flowers, President, West Virginia State Medical Association

“In rural Boone County, we struggle with meeting the needs of patients who have suffered a stroke. Working with the American Heart Association to provide additional educational resources and trainings, we feel secure in saying that timely care and treatment of stroke patients would improve.”
- Bryan Justice, Director of Boone County Ambulance Authority
Mountaineer Food Bank, Inc.-Fresh Initiative Pop-Up Markets: $20,000 (Health)  
Mountaineer Food Bank will partner with local producers and WVU extension agents to host pop-up markets. The markets will provide fresh produce to selected elementary schools in Boone, Clay, and Fayette counties. This first year of funding from TGKVF will help improve access to nutrient-dense foods that make up a healthy eating pattern, provide education, food samplings, and increase food insecurity awareness and empathy.

West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition, Inc.-Try This! Empowering Communities to take back their Health!: $54,100 (Health)  
In its fourth year of TGKVF funding, Try This! will support 63 community-led projects in Boone, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, and Putnam counties. The 2018 mini-grant cycle welcomed ten new projects in these six counties in TGKVF’s footprint.

Goodwill-Good Host: $45,000 (CED)  
In its second year of TGKVF funding, the Good Host program will continue to provide comprehensive training for community members seeking employment in West Virginia’s growing hospitality industry. Students will develop a series of robust skills needed to succeed in the hospitality industry. The program is currently recruiting students for its third cohort.

BridgeValley Community Technical College-The GRID: $71,953 (CED)  
The GRID, an acronym for Generate, Renew, Innovate, and Design, is a newly funded initiative that is led by BridgeValley. Located in Montgomery, the GRID offers academic programs utilizing face-to-face, hybrid, and online modalities that support small business development, technology, and creative expression. The GRID also provides space and access to machinery/technology for classes and workshops on a rental basis. Access to Wi-Fi, as well as dedicated office and retail space, are included in the rentals. The GRID is working to create an entrepreneurial ecosystem that capitalizes on the region’s artisan heritage. TGKVF funding will support instruction, coordination, and supplies.

West Virginia Women Work!-Step UP Women Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program: $52,600 (CED)  
This second year of TGKVF funding will be used to support the Step Up for Women Construction Pre-Apprenticeship, a tuition-free 12-week training program of West Virginia Women Work, Inc. The course prepares adult students for nontraditional careers in the construction industry while helping participants overcome barriers to employment.
womanSong—womanSong's 21st Season 2018/2019: $4,000 (Arts & Culture)

womanSong's 21st season will offer a diverse array of music with four main concerts in collaboration with local musicians. Performances will include a winter concert, spring concert, and two GoodNight New Year's Eve concerts. womanSong will utilize this grant funding to purchase music, pay guest instrumentalists, and for scholarship funding.

City of Charleston-The stART Project: $12,500 (Arts & Culture)
The stART Project is an arts initiative for people experiencing homelessness or at high risk for homelessness in Charleston and surrounding areas. The initiative will provide an environment that encourages creativity and nurtures community positivity. Covenant House and the City of Charleston’s Office of Public Art will provide studio space for individuals to create art with assistance from artist facilitators. Long-term goals include workshops, exhibition, retail opportunities, and public art projects. Funds will be used to hire artist facilitators for workshops, develop a public art project, and purchase art supplies for project activity.

American Red Cross-Disaster Relief: $35,000 (Basic Needs)
The American Red Cross responds to disasters big and small, from flooding to home fires. The Red Cross provides those affected by disasters with shelter, clothing, and food when they need them most. Planned activities include responding to emergencies quickly to aid in client recovery, as well as public outreach regarding available Red Cross services. Funding will be used to cover the financial assistance given directly to Disaster Service Program clients via assistance cards in TGKVF’s service area.

Tyler Mountain/Cross Lanes Community Services-Basic Needs Program: $18,000 (Basic Needs)
Tyler Mountain/Cross Lanes Community Services (TMCLCS) is a social service agency formed in 1980 by the Cross Lanes Ministerial Association. TGKVF funding will assist low-income households in Cross Lanes and the surrounding area with basic needs through a food pantry, utility assistance, a weekend snack program for students, community garden maintenance, and holiday food baskets.

“I love to sing. I like the science, art, and joy of it. But I mostly love these girls. We all have different shapes, sizes, and backgrounds with that one thing in common.”
- Julia Given, womanSong member

“Every day at Covenant House we see the power of compassionate engagement. The stART Project will give us one more tool to lift the spirit and build the confidence of our most vulnerable neighbors, one person, one conversation, one canvas at a time”
- Ellen Allen, Executive Director, Covenant House

“I truly believe that God has me here to help people when they need it most in a way that no other place can. I don’t just give out a Client Assistance Card and never talk to them again. I get to help see them through their recovery after one of the most awful things a person can go through.”
- American Red Cross volunteer

“Without Jason and Tyler Mountain, I would have to choose between taking my medication and eating properly.”
- local community resident
Housing Innovations Corporation-
Meeting the Needs of Older Adults in Our Community: $23,100 (Field-of-Interest)
Funding from this grant will serve Housing Innovations Corporation’s senior communities in Kanawha County. These residents often do not have the financial means to meet their basic needs when other unexpected expenses arise. Without these funds, residents are vulnerable to homelessness and unable to remain independent and active in their communities. This grant will provide pantry items (food, cleaning supplies, and personal care) and assistance with acute emergency needs, such as transportation, utilities, and prescriptions. Additionally, grant funds will cover supplies for social/emotional wellness clubs, including games, quilting/sewing, or art.

Report for America- Report for America:
$16,000 (Special Initiative)
The Gazette-Mail was one of the three original Report for America newsrooms based in Appalachia. In January 2018, Caity Coyne joined the newsroom, tasked explicitly with covering Southern West Virginia, including the areas directly south of Charleston into Boone and Lincoln counties and further south. The Gazette-Mail has many readers in this target area, but the paper has been unable to devote enough resources in recent years. Funding will help to support Coyne’s salary in 2019 as well as employ a second journalist to focus more on Lincoln and Boone counties.

Capital Area Development Corporation Foundation - Regional Opportunity Zone Marketing: $12,000 (Special Initiative)
Advantage Valley will work with its partners to develop a “pitch book” on potential Opportunity Zone projects within the Kanawha County region. Communities across the country are aggressively documenting real estate and business development opportunities within these newly designated zones and marketing them to newly created Opportunity Funds that are attracting investors interested in limiting their current tax liabilities and looking for returns on their investments. Funding will be used to develop a coordinated marketing plan in order to compete for investment funds adequately.

“I am very fortunate to have the church giving me these groceries so I don’t have to worry about how I am going to feed myself until I get my next check.”
- Jarrett Terrace resident

“As newsrooms have shrunk, the detail and nuance of developments in those communities too often gets crowded out of local and national news coverage. Report for America helps us focus on those people and those issues.”
- Greg Moore, Executive Editor Charleston-Gazette Mail

“West Virginia and her cities must learn to market themselves as a cohesive unit, focusing on our collective strengths and catalyzing investment and development that can spread organically.”
- Kelley Goes, President of Advantage Valley Inc.
Partnership of African American Churches - West Side Ward 4 Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition: $35,000 (West Side Initiative)

This project will provide the funding to advance the work of the West Side Ward 4 Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. Specific activities will include the continuation of the monthly and bi-monthly Coalition and Youth Task Force meetings; educational substance abuse prevention presentations to middle school youth in health classes; and the implementation of Teen Summit, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) activities, and drug-free community activities for youth.

Zion Child Development Center, Inc. - Building Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports: $40,000 (West Side Initiative)

Zion and the Boys & Girls Club (BGC) seek to improve the Social-Emotional Health of the youth of Charleston’s West Side. Zion staff will gain valuable training and coaching experience while sharing their knowledge of the “Pyramid Model” with BGC. BGC will also host family fun nights and workshops. Additionally, Zion will expand their program with the addition of the Second Step curriculum and increase their trauma-informed practices. These interventions will improve vital skills in children, including problem-solving and emotion management. They will also encourage a climate of social-emotional safety and support. Grant funds will be used to purchase materials and fund training.

Keep Your Faith Corporation, Inc. - West Side Grown: $28,600 (West Side Initiative)

In its third year of funding, the West Side Grown project will focus on nurturing partnerships that extend the reach of student-focused learning opportunities such as school-based farmers’ markets and nutritional and agricultural education at nearby schools and out of school time education settings. This project will also secure a permanent location for a farmers’ market on Charleston’s West Side.

“"There are other things we can do. Let’s make it happen!””
- Youth Sector Leader to her peers

“We are being given the opportunity to touch more young lives and help them become the leaders they have the potential to be by giving them to tools they need to overcome their circumstances and environmental challenges.”
- Micha Webb

“One parent contacted Dural Miller to share a photo of her dinner using vegetables from the day’s pop up market including a message that discusses their new diet changes and new focus on nutrition after participating in the West Side Grown program.”
- KYFC member
GRANTS UPDATE

2018 Anonymous Funds Distributions

Due to the incredible generosity of an anonymous donor, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation (TGKVF) has for the second year awarded $1 million within 12 months to organizations serving marginalized populations with dental health and emergency aid needs. With this support, more than 27,000 people are being served with food, dental services, addiction recovery, utility and housing assistance, and so much more. With deep gratitude to TGKVF’s anonymous donor, 73,232 items are being provided, 29,828 things are being built or improved, and 18,228 people are learning from presentations and direct client case management. According to Michelle Foster, President and CEO, “TGKVF appreciates the opportunity to partner with this special donor to make life better for so many in our community.” Read further for more detail about each of the awards that were granted in 2018.

Dental Health Grants

Kanawha County Dental Health Council, Inc.-Kanawha County Dental Health project: $50,000
This funding supports the dental health of low-income children by addressing pain and oral infection via regular dental visits. In many cases, school hygienists screen and assess the dental needs of students and find that children are experiencing painful unaddressed issues. Quite often, students’ families have limited transportation options or financial means to provide for their oral health. Through this grant, low-income children receive increased access to dental services.

West Virginia Health Right, Inc.-Dental Care for Impoverished Adults: $175,000
West Virginia Health Right is a free and charitable clinic serving more than 27,000 West Virginians annually with medical, behavioral, and dental needs. The funding received through this grant offsets the cost of personnel salaries for a mobile dental unit and provides consumable supplies for the onsite clinic in Charleston as well as for the mobile dental unit. Residents from Boone and Clay counties who face economic or geographic barriers that prevent them from accessing the onsite clinic will be served through the mobile dental unit.

Charleston Area Medical Center Health Education & Research Institute, Inc.-Dental Assistance for CAMC Cancer Patients: $50,000
This funding provides direct dental care to low-income, uninsured adult cancer patients in need of dental clearance to complete cancer treatment. This care will encourage patients to continue to practice good oral health while providing them with the resources to do so. This dental clearance will improve treatment and overall oral health.

Family Care-Oral Health Services for Women in Recovery Year 2: $80,000
Now in its second year of support, this project allows Family Care to continue dental programming at Recovery Point of Charleston, a 92-bed facility providing women with long-term, residential recovery services. With this funding, Family Care provides preventive and restorative oral health services to women in recovery from opioid addiction.
**West Virginia Oral Health Coalition—Smiles Across West Virginia Sealant Program: $10,000**

Project funding focuses on improving children’s oral health via a dental sealant program. When this dental sealant is painted on the chewing surface of back molars, it can prevent cavities for many years. Funding supports school-based dental programs, private dentists, and programs working in collaboration to provide dental sealants to disadvantaged children in Boone, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, and Putnam counties.

**Cabin Creek Health Systems—Cabin Creek Smiles: $30,000**

Funding for this project helps provide direct care for low-income, uninsured children who are not eligible for Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). With this grant, Cabin Creek Health Systems works to connect children with a dental home in addition to assisting adult low-income patients with oral health services such as cleanings, fillings, crowns, partials, and dentures.

**West Virginia University Foundation—WVU School of Dentistry Rural Outreach for Lincoln County: $55,000**

Funding supports the WVU dental school’s work with dentists serving Lincoln County residents to facilitate the provision of oral health care for those without dental insurance or means of payment. This work will also occur in select offices in Chapmanville and Charleston.

**New River Health Dental—New River Heath Association’s Fayette County Oral Health Project: $50,000**

This grant supports the improvement of oral health for an underserved population in Fayette County, providing adult preventive care, root canals, and fillings. This program will also expand services to reach underserved school-age children who do not have access to dental services due to transportation issues.

**Emergency Aid Grants**

**Women’s Health Center of West Virginia, Inc.—Patient Electronic Record System Server Replacement Project: $16,268**

With this grant, the Women’s Health Center replaced an electronic medical record (EMR) system server that holds critical medical data and home visitation records of low-income clients. This system also powers practice management, patient medical records, appointment scheduling, and billing functions. Without its replacement, the old system may have failed at any moment and severely hampered services to marginalized women.

**Religious Coalition for Community Renewal, Inc.—Samaritan Inn: $14,221**

This funding supported bathroom repairs at Samaritan Inn, a transitional home for homeless men and those who are in recovery from addiction. Without the bathroom’s repairs, water would have continued to leak onto lower levels, presenting a safety hazard for residents and staff.
Clay County Commission-Clay County Nutrition for the Elderly: $16,570
During severe flooding in June 2016, the foundation of a building used to prepare, serve, and deliver meals to elderly residents was damaged. This building, owned by the Clay County Commission and rented to the elderly assistance agency for $1 annually, is the only place that provides nutrition services to seniors within the county. The funding assisted with the building’s repairs so that meal services can continue.

Tyler Mountain/Cross Lanes Community Services (TMCLCS)-Handicap Ramp Construction at the TMCLCS Food Pantry: $2,800
Project funding supported the construction of a handicap ramp at the Cross Lanes food pantry, which serves financially disadvantaged individuals, families, and seniors. With this increased access to the pantry, those who require services can safely transport pantry orders.

Gabriel Project of West Virginia-Metro Valley Chapter Office Computer: $1,200
The Gabriel Project of West Virginia provides immediate and practical assistance to low-income pregnant women and to families with infants and children two years of age and under. With this grant, the organization was able to purchase a laptop and docking station to document client services. Prior to receiving funding, staff members used personal computers for this task.

Putnam Career and Technical Center-Adult Student Emergency Aid Fund: $5,000
With this grant, skilled and academically talented students who are at risk of not finishing their education due to unmet living expense needs are supported with emergency aid funding. Funding for transportation is often awarded while housing, utilities, and food costs are also considered.

YWCA Sojourner's-Shelter for Homeless Women & Families Assistance: $30,000
The YWCA Sojourner’s Shelter provides a safe place for women and families experiencing homelessness and for those transitioning out of the shelter who need assistance with household necessities. Funding from this award supports individuals and families who need help with rental deposits and rent, utilities and deposits, and other vital necessities such as bedding, bed frames, mattresses, towels, washcloths, kitchen supplies, and other household items. Funding will also be used for replacement stair treads throughout the facility and other essential equipment and technology.

Metro Emergency Operations Center of Kanawha County Metro 911-Metro 911 Acquisition of KENWOOD NX-5300 handheld radios: $10,000
The KENWOOD NX-5300 handheld radios will serve as instantaneous backup to the dispatch radio consoles that are the lifeline of communication for police, firefighters, and medics in the field. In the event of technological failures or other events, these handheld radios turn on within seconds and allow dispatchers and supervisors to monitor several radio frequencies simultaneously.
West Virginia Child Advocacy Network-Child Advocacy Center Emergency Aid: $15,000
The West Virginia Child Advocacy Network provides guidance, protection, and help to children and families affected by abuse. Funding will provide low-income families with direct assistance related to their emergency needs, including paying rent and filling prescriptions. Often, the primary financial supporter of a family is the perpetrator, which results in an immediate loss of income, insurance, transportation, and perhaps even the family home. In addition, these emergency funds will allow the child advocacy centers to make building or essential equipment repairs if unexpected failures occur within the center.

Children’s Home Society of WV-Permanency Program for Boone and Lincoln Counties: $80,000
With this funding, the Children's Home Society, a child welfare organization serving West Virginia, is working to increase the number of licensed Foster Care and Certified Kinship Care homes by 32 homes. In Boone County, 144 children (1 in 36) are in state custody with only 61 foster homes available. In Lincoln County, 129 children (1 in 37) are in state custody with only 112 foster homes are available. These rural counties have fewer community resources, including fewer established foster families. With this grant’s support, Children’s Home Society will offer additional foster family trainings.

Camp Appalachia-Camp Appalachia Cabin Renovation: $31,638
Funding will support a camp experience at little or no cost for children ages 7 to 17 who may be at high risk for destructive life choices. These campers include those who have been affected by the opioid epidemic, those in the foster care system, and those who have one or more parents incarcerated. Currently a summer day camp, funding will help with cabin upgrades and repairs to allow the camp to operate year round.

Mission West Virginia-Carry On Project: $10,000
In collaboration with its Frameworks program, which finds families for children in the foster care system, this grant will enable Mission West Virginia to assist caregivers in covering the costs of basic necessities for the youth in their care. There is often not financial assistance to provide care for additional children for a caregiver who may already be on a fixed income. This emergency assistance for youth care will help to alleviate strain on the household budget so that funds can be directed for food, housing, and utility costs.

Community Care of West Virginia-Improving Outcomes in Clay County via Fitness and Social Determinants of Health Interventions: $30,000
With this grant, Community Care of West Virginia, a federally qualified health clinic, will replace equipment at its free fitness center adjacent to the Clay primary office. The clinic saw improvements in patients’ BMI, fasting blood glucose, blood pressure, and depression while using the fitness center; and now sees direct consequences due to the lack of access to the equipment. The funding also allows for social determinants interventions, which provide direct assistance to low-income families with emergency utility and prescription needs.
Cross Lanes United Methodist Church - Showers and Laundry Room for Emergency Shelter and Work Teams: $20,000
Funding for this project supports the construction of six showers and a laundry room at the Cross Lanes United Methodist Church, which also houses a basic needs assistance program. Having these facilities will allow the church to function as an emergency shelter, host disaster recovery teams, and serve as a relief station for flood, fire, and other natural disaster survivors.

Risen Lord Catholic Church - Risen Lord Food Pantry and Social Concern Project: $10,000
Funding supports the Risen Lord Catholic Church’s Food Pantry and Backpack Program in Clay County. The program serves 120 elementary school students weekly with backpacks containing food items and snacks. For low-income families, the weekends can pose food insecurity concerns since children are not receiving breakfast and lunch at their schools. Requests for food have increased and the Food Pantry is now serving 150 families each month. This grant provides for additional food and emergency supplies.

Pro Kids, Inc. - Charleston Afterschool Learning and Adventures: $35,000
With this grant, Pro Kids, an afterschool program serving at-risk youth, will launch additional afterschool program sites throughout urban neighborhoods in Charleston. This collaborative effort between Kanawha County Schools and three established afterschool programs will prevent a disruption of services caused by the recent closure of an area afterschool program. Funding will support the placement of up to 90 children at additional after school sites. Without this support, these children would not have a safe place to go after school.

Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action, Inc. (KISRA) - KISRA Emergency Aid Project: $43,000
Funding will support the continuation of the Emergency Services Program that supports low-income and working poor individuals and families in Kanawha County. The Program will include utility assistance for those with a current disconnect or shut-off notice, rental assistance for those with eviction notices from a landlord, food assistance provided by gift cards to local budget stores, and medication assistance to include maintenance medication for chronic diseases.

United Way of Central West Virginia - WV211: $41,000
The United Way 211 system provides free and confidential information and referral for people throughout West Virginia struggling with health and human services related emergencies. The system operates 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Funding will support the promotion of the value of the service among those in crisis. Now housed and managed under United Way of West Virginia collaborative, this funding will strengthen this vital information and referral system.
West Virginia Health Right, Inc.-HOPE (Healing Opportunities for Parents Everywhere): $38,000
West Virginia Health Right is the state’s largest free and charitable clinic. This funding supports the clinic in providing behavioral health and addiction services to those in recovery and active addiction. Services include medically assisted treatment, individualized recovery coaching, referral to inpatient treatment, access to birth control, health education, and medical/dental/pharmaceutical care for 75 low-income uninsured or underinsured women and men who identify as drug addicted, are of child bearing age, or have recently had a child. All of these services will be provided at no charge to the patient.

Manna Meal-So the Hungry Can Eat: $49,303
Manna Meal is Charleston’s largest soup kitchen and serves meals 365 days a year, no questions asked. This funding provides direct access to emergency food and two prepared meals per day for low-income families, senior citizens, the homeless, and individuals with disabilities primarily in Kanawha County. Funding will also replace essential equipment such as kitchen appliances.

West Virginia State University Research & Development Corporation-Freedom to Recover: $1,000
West Virginia State University is collaborating with multiple agencies to address the region’s opioid addiction crisis. Funding will provide health services to Kanawha County residents who are in recovery from substance use/abuse. The twelve-month project will address inadequate dental care, housing, nutrition education, workforce development, parenting, and other issues the target population faces.

Interested in learning how you could partner with TGKVF to make grants to communities possible, now and in perpetuity?

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