

# 2025 Bruton Parish Grants

Thanks largely to the profits from our Gift Shop, proceeds from our Heavenly Treasures sales, and the Labor Day Book Sale, Bruton Parish Church awarded \$to non-profits and emergency relief needs in 2024. The Fall Grant Awards of \$137,216 provided funds to 25 non-profits in various missions, mostly in the Greater Williamsburg area. These organizations help feed the hungry, house the homeless, care for the sick, provide holiday meals, educate and nurture children, and transform people's lives.

Each year, the M&O Committee also authorizes funds for various outreach programs at Bruton Parish. These include Loaves & Fishes, Care Closets, Bruton Builders, and Emergency Relief for hurricanes, fires, and other natural disasters. By supporting the Bruton Parish Gift Shop and Heavenly Treasures, the proceeds from the sales benefit people in need in our community and beyond. Monetary donations are also accepted.

## Grants to Feed the Hungry and Address Food Insecurity

FISH, Inc. (Williamsburg): FISH, an all-volunteer, not-for-profit agency, helps residents in the Williamsburg area who find themselves in need of food and clothing. Beyond FISH's core food pantry and clothes, FISH delivers bags of groceries to residents living in motels, partners with Meals on Wheels with the Summer Meals for Kids program, supplies food for the William and Mary Food Pantry, and provides food and clothing to support Bruton's Care Closets ministry. This year's grant will be used to purchase cookware and small appliances to cook the food Fish provides. Awarded \$6,000.

Grove Christian Outreach Center (Williamsburg): The Grove Christian Outreach Center ministers to the physical and spiritual needs of the community's poor and disadvantaged. Access to fresh, nutritious, and perishable foods is a pressing need. The awarded funds will strengthen and expand The Gathering Place, Williamsburg's first and only free food market. Awarded \$6,000.

Moose Family Center (Gloucester): Each year, the Moose Family Center produces a Christmas play performed by youth (ages 6-18) in the community to raise funds to support the Moose Family Center's Annual Christmas Day Feast. The Bruton Parish grant will once again help fund this youth production so that it, in turn, can raise the money needed to pay for this special dinner that brings warmth and joy to residents in need at Christmas. Awarded \$6,000.

## Grants to House the Homeless and to Address Permanent Housing and Other Housing Issues

Community of Faith Mission (Williamsburg): A collaboration of more than 30 faith-based congregations and a dozen community partners, this emergency shelter program serves those experiencing homelessness in the Greater Williamsburg community during the coldest months of the year. COFM requested funding to help offset the cost and training of staff which are now present at all host sites during all hours of shelter operations to provide consistency and a sense of security for volunteers. Awarded \$6,000.

Habitat for Humanity Peninsula and Greater Williamsburg: Habitat PGW partners with local families, government, businesses, faith groups, civic groups, schools and individuals to build and renovate affordable homes for sale to low- and moderate-income families in need. This year's grant is needed for the Fix'D exterior home-repair program to provide crucial safety and accessibility repairs for homeowners, with priority given to the elderly, disabled, veteran and low-income households. Awarded \$6,000.

Housing Development Corp of Hampton Roads (Newport News and Hampton): As they work to end homelessness in Hampton Roads, HDCofHR provides quality, affordable rental housing opportunities in safe neighborhoods to low-income individuals and families. Most of these homes were built post-WWII with repairs needed to meet the required standards as rental units. This year's grant will provide smoke detectors for 31 housing units which provide shelter for 64 men, women and children. Awarded \$6,000.

NATASHA House Inc. (Virginia Peninsula): For 15 years NATASHA House has been intervening in the cycle of homelessness for female-headed families and at-risk children by providing a transitional living program for up to two years while participating in rehabilitative services and classes. This grant is for a new outdoor playground set to replace the worn-out ten-year-old set. Awarded \$2,500.

Peninsula Agency on Aging, Inc. (Greater Williamsburg): For 60 years, Peninsula Agency on Aging (PAA) has supported the independence and quality of Peninsula seniors by advocating, arranging, and providing vital human services for residents primarily 60 years or older. The grant will fund safety technology, such as grab bars, bed alarms, bidets and safety lighting for ten households for older adults residing in the Greater Williamsburg area. These services benefit seniors by allowing them to remain in their homes. Awarded \$6,000.

Williamsburg Faith in Action (Williamsburg): Faith in Action's mission is to help senior adults age safely in their homes by coordinating transportation and other support services free of charge, regardless of income. Volunteers offer medical transportation, grocery, food pantry, prescription deliveries, and wellness-check visits to seniors. This year's grant will support Faith in Action's general operating budget, which allows WFIA to coordinate services for an ever-growing community of seniors in the Greater Williamsburg area. Awarded \$6,000.

Williamsburg House of Mercy (Williamsburg): House of Mercy's mission is to live out the Bible's teaching of mercy in nonjudgmental and dignifying ways for everyone who walks through its doors. They provide a safe and welcoming environment for people in our area experiencing homelessness. The awarded funds will help support the Harbor Day Shelter operation, which is open each weekday to provide respite, including breakfast and lunch, showers and connections to housing programs and homelessness referrals. Awarded \$6,000.

## Grants to Address Education Programs

Anna Julia Cooper School (Richmond): Located in Creighton Court, one of Richmond's six subsidized housing communities, Anna Julia Cooper is a faith-based, independent K-8 school for vulnerable children in the East End neighborhood. As a completely tuition-free independent school, AJC relies on the generosity of donors to financially support underserved children. The grant award will provide tuition for 12 additional first-grade students increasing enrollment from 198 to 210 students. Awarded \$6,000.

Imago Dei Neighborhood School (Richmond): this school's mission to offer a vibrant, rigorous and holistic Christian education to families of all ethnicities and income levels, serving 134 students in Pre-K through 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Recognizing that social emotional support and skill-building is crucial for children who have experienced trauma, loss, insecurity and inequality, grant request is to hire a behavior-support specialist. Awarded \$6,000.

Literacy for Life (Williamsburg): Since 1975, Literacy for Life (LFL) has empowered adults by building foundational skills for success in life and work. Services include one-to-one tutoring and classes, both virtual and in-person, that address the basic skills of reading, writing, math, and the English language. The grant will support a portion of the salary of a Career Coach to provide career assessment, job search, resume writing, and interview preparation. Awarded \$6,000.

Saint Andrew's School (Richmond): St. Andrew's is a tuition-free school that serves 96 K-5 students whose families' annual income does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. St. Andrew's focuses on the whole child: academics, wellness and nutrition, visual and performing arts, family engagement, graduate support, and social and emotional learning. Its goal is to continue implementing this whole child program in order to support St. Andrew's work to set up their students for a lifetime of learning and success. Awarded \$6,000.

## Grants to Address Health and Medical Ministries

Arc of Williamsburg (Williamsburg): The Arc of Greater Williamsburg's mission is to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through community activities and advocacy. They currently serve more than 250 families. The Arc is currently purchasing a building home, and the grant will enable further expansion of the life skills and vocational training program and related transportation expansion. Awarded \$6,000.

BikeWalk Williamsburg: BWW provides resources and materials to improve cycling and walking safety for all residents. Their major outreach program, the Bicycle Co-Op of Williamsburg, addresses inequities experienced by low-resourced individuals through their voucher program. Approximately 350 free helmets have been provided in Greater Williamsburg in the past year, and this grant is needed to ensure maintaining and possibly expanding this effort. Awarded \$3,000.

Child Development Resources (Williamsburg): CDR programs impact more than 14,000 young children, families and families and early childhood professionals in this community and across Virginia. CDR strives to ensure every child gets the best start in life by providing specialized on-site therapies and home visit programs for children with disabilities, special needs, developmental delays, and those at risk for delays. The awarded funds will be used to provide the low-tech communication methods which insurance companies require for subsequent use of the high-tech devices Bruton helped to fund last year. The communication devices aim to provide children with a means to communicate with their family and participate in the community. Awarded \$3,000.

Colonial Court Appointed Special Advocate (Williamsburg): Colonial CASA promotes and protects the best interest of children and youth who have been abused or neglected and who have entered the court system. CASA recruits and trains volunteers to advocate for children and mentor youth in the court and in the community. Colonial CASA was awarded \$30,000 last year to initiate its "Youth Empowerment" transformational program. Their Fall grant will be used to recruit and train more volunteer Advocates. Last year, several kids were either waitlisted or not served at all because of a lack of Advocates. CASA's plan is to use the awarded grant funds to help more Advocates serve these children in need. Awarded \$6,000.

Hospice House of Williamsburg (Williamsburg): The Hospice House's mission is to provide care, comfort, and compassion during and after end-of-life. It supports approximately 125 guests annually. The awarded funds will help implement a new strategic effort to increase utilization from the current rate of 47% to 58% (140 guests) in 2026. Awarded \$6,000.

SpiritWorks Foundation Center for the Soul (Williamsburg): The mission of SpiritWorks is "together we are working to end the intergenerational cycle of addiction by educating, equipping, empowering and celebrating individuals, families, faith leaders, and communities on the journey from addiction to recovery and beyond." The grant will fund the "Nourishing Recovery" project: a comprehensive cookbook and resource for health and healing for individuals and families affected by addiction. Awarded \$6,000.

Tailwinds Ranch Rest and Recovery Center (Williamsburg): Tailwinds delivers trauma-informed mental health services to veterans, active-duty military personnel and first responders. It utilizes evidence-based therapies combined with equine-assisted interventions in a farm environment to address occupational trauma, combat-related PTSD and moral injury. These services target these populations in Williamsburg and surrounding areas, where access to specialized, no-cost trauma care is limited. This grant will fund operational costs, including pay for therapists and barn staff, horse feed and veterinary care. Awarded \$5,000.

## Grants to Support International Aid Programs

El Hogar Ministries (Honduras): Founded by members of the Episcopal Church in Tegucigalpa, El Hogar's mission is to provide high-quality academic instruction, hands-on vocational training and family-style residential care for children who have been separated from their families. This grant will provide resources that support whole-child thriving, specifically covering the salaries of experienced elementary academic instructors for one month. Awarded \$5,072.

Joel Nafuma Refugee Center (Rome, Italy): JNRC, an Episcopal Church mission located in the heart of Rome, is dedicated to assisting asylum seekers from all over the world, regardless of ethnicity, faith tradition, or phase of their journey. The "Italian Language Program" aims to address the critical need for Italian language education among refugees in Rome, Italy. This initiative is designed to empower refugees by equipping them with essential language skills necessary for effective communication, social integration, and access to employment opportunities, particularly in the tourism sector. Awarded \$5,876.

St. James Leland Parish/Chemondin Women Group (Kenya): The church-based Chemondin mission is to support women farmers in agriculture. Their current green-house project was funded by the American Embassy's Ambassador's Self-Help Fund. Now they are proposing poultry farming for sustainable economic development in the church and the diocese. Approximately 200 families will benefit from this project. Awarded \$5,876.

St. Mary Cathedral Women's Grinding Mill (South Sudan): This is a project of CUEED -- Christians United for Evangelism, Education and Development -- whose mission is to empower local communities and churches to serve the most vulnerable people. This project will help support women, orphans and the general community in the vicinity of the Diocese of Gogrial. It will give financial support to 180 households and 120 orphans. Awarded \$6,000.