

Responding in Tough Times

Who knew when 2008 began how difficult a year it would prove to be for our community's nonprofits? Many saw their county and state funding slashed, while donations decreased. Those with endowments saw them drop, while facing increasing demands for services.

With these challenges, we wanted to do everything we could to be even more responsive; we couldn't continue with business as usual.

We held events out in the community where we invited local nonprofits to talk to us about their issues, how they were coping, and how we could help. More than 250 organizations participated in the events, and we are planning to make these forums a regular part of our outreach.

We shortened our response time to proposals and have created more flexibility with our grant dollars, while also directing a greater portion of our grants to organizations dealing directly with the aftermath of the recession.

But we also want to keep our eye on the future. As we make grants with long-term implications, we are sowing seeds to ensure that Cleveland is strong enough to withstand future challenges.

Our 2008 grant highlights feature a mix of small and large grants, all with the goal of making Cleveland better.



Robert E. Eckardt
Senior Vice President for Programs and Evaluation

2008 Grantmaking Highlights

Our grantmaking team has always been invested in the community, and responding to ideas and proposals is one of our greatest priorities. In evaluating every request, we particularly look to support efforts that:

- *Improve access to services and programs for vulnerable and underserved populations*
- *Strengthen nonprofit organizations*
- *Test new ideas and different partnerships*
- *Support policy and advocacy*

With these goals in mind, our board allocates funding where we think it will help the community most. The Cleveland Foundation authorized 3,100 grants during

the year. Following are just a few highlights. A complete list of our 2008 grants can be found on our website: www.ClevelandFoundation.org/Grants

Improve access to services and programs for vulnerable and underserved populations

CityMusic Cleveland

\$28,000 for the arts organization's free chamber orchestra concerts for residents in the Slavic Village and St. Clair-Superior neighborhoods

Berea Children's Home & Family Services

\$67,500 for its Freedom Schools, a program to help communities create supportive and literature-rich environments for children through a focus on literacy, cultural heritage, parental involvement, and social action

Art House

\$45,000 for development and 2008-2009 program support

Cleveland Saves

\$60,000 for its self-sufficiency campaign, which assists individuals who wish to build wealth, reduce debt, and create lifelong financial security

Nature's Bin

\$40,000 for its social enterprise program serving people with disabilities

Cleveland Foodbank

\$100,000 for its fresh produce initiative, which will ensure that Cleveland's economically disadvantaged will receive nutritional meals on a regular basis

Environmental Health Watch

\$198,000 for the expansion of its Healthy Homes program, which helps low- to moderate-income families address significant health issues in their homes

Cleveland Scholarship Programs

\$685,000 to increase post-secondary education for low-income, first-generation students facing academic and financial barriers

Strengthen nonprofit organizations

Cleveland Institute of Art

\$500,000 for a capital campaign to modernize and unify its two existing facilities into one state-of-the-art campus at the eastern end of the Euclid-Mayfield Triangle, part of the broader Arts and Cultural Retail District in University Circle

Recovery Resources

\$125,000 in support of its green building project

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum

\$150,000 for public activities associated with the 2009 Hall of Fame inductions

Cleveland Housing Network

\$167,000 for its strategic initiatives in neighborhood revitalization

America SCORES

\$45,000 for its local after-school literacy and physical education program

Hathaway Brown

\$100,000 for its ASPIRE program, a tuition-free, three-year summer enrichment program for girls in the sixth through eighth grades from Cleveland-area public schools

Test new ideas and different partnerships

Cleveland Metropolitan School District

\$98,170 for its K-12 comprehensive health program, providing age-appropriate health education to nearly 50,000 students

Hispanic Alliance

\$200,000 for first-year start-up costs for the alliance, which will position itself as the "go to" entity in the community for Hispanic and Latino concerns

Cleveland Public Art

\$110,000 for 2009 projects and programming, including partnerships with Parkworks and Neighborhood Progress Inc.

RSVP of Greater Cleveland

\$150,000 to Experience Corps, a program to increase literacy among young children using senior volunteer tutors

Cogswell Hall

\$250,000 for its renovation and expansion project, which will provide increased services for clients who would otherwise be homeless

Family Transitional Housing

\$75,000 to cover costs related to the merger with the West Side Catholic Center

Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center

\$139,500 for its continued development of programs and services for the Hispanic community

Ohio State University Research Foundation

\$110,056 for community gardening programs in the city of Cleveland

Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland

\$75,000 for its gang prevention program

Support policy and advocacy

Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People

\$25,000 for its Neighbors Revitalizing Neighborhoods foreclosure prevention project

Center for Families and Children

\$50,000 for the implementation of Mental Health Advocacy Coalition's strategic plan

Neighborhood Family Practice

\$85,000 for Increasing Access for Uninsured public policy and advocacy programming

Ohio Environmental Council

\$50,000 for its campaign to reduce diesel pollution

Environmental Law & Policy Center of the Midwest

\$105,000 toward creation of an Ohio office

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio

\$75,000 for OhioVOTES, a nonpartisan voter education initiative, and \$30,000 for its emergency payday lending referendum challenge