



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**Blue Ridge Abortion Fund, Inc.**

We envision a world where everyone receives supportive, compassionate, medically safe and appropriate abortion care in their community.

**Organization Contact:** Jesse Torrey, Operations Director

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** The Blue Ridge Abortion Fund (BRAf) receives requests from community members who need financial support to pay for their abortions. We provide funding support to anyone living in or traveling to Virginia needing abortion care. In Virginia, though abortion remains legal, barriers to access remain. 85% of the people served are from Virginia and 15% are traveling from other states where abortion is now banned or severely restricted. People call the helpline and speak with intake staff, who work with them to develop a plan of support that best suits their needs. Callers whose language of origin is Spanish learn that our intake staff can support them throughout their process. Some callers simply need abortion funding support, and that's it. More and more callers are requesting robust practical support as abortion bans and restrictions impact folks' ability to get to clinics. Our work continues to align with UU Principles, especially "the right of conscience in society at large," "the inherent worth and dignity of every person" and "justice, equity and compassion in human relations."

Callers who need abortions later in pregnancy may need to arrange for multi-day appointments and longer distance travel. Some folks just need to hear that what is happening to them is normal, is common, and is OK. Taking the stress and barriers out of abortion access is a priority. In addition, boldly sharing our work with the broader community helps to remove the stigma that has been attached to abortion care, and harms people who are seeking to make the best decision for themselves and their families. BRAf is 35 years old this year and in that time has funded over 10,000 callers.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** ACCOMPLISHMENT 1 - In 2023, BRAf maintained a funding budget of \$20,000 each week due to the continuing support of dedicated donors and community members. We pledged \$810,659 to 1,519 callers, with an average pledge of \$483. Blue Ridge Abortion Fund is the largest and oldest fund in Virginia and we are grateful for the ability to continue to increase support to callers at a time when abortion access is being decimated in this country.

ACCOMPLISHMENT 2 - In 2023, BRAf conducted our first strategic planning process utilizing feedback from the community to develop a 3 year plan. The primary goals of the plan are to amplify care for our callers, enrich access to abortions throughout Virginia, empower communities to fortify abortion access and enhance our organization's well-being through reproductive justice frameworks. BRAf has

been able to sustain and remain stronger than ever during an incredibly tumultuous time for reproductive freedom and we are ready to continue to grow and adapt to meet the needs of our community. We have adopted a new program, Practi-cab, where trained volunteers provide rides to and from the clinic for callers who need transportation.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** Monthly collection funds will ensure people in the Charlottesville/Albemarle and surrounding communities are able to access abortion care, which is essential health care, without regard to the size of their bank account. There are two abortion clinics in the Charlottesville/Albemarle community, where the cost of an abortion is between \$500-\$1,450. This is a catastrophic medical expense for our callers, especially when the time-sensitive nature of abortion is considered. Your support means someone can access the care they need, regardless of the size of their bank account.

Being a part of the UU monthly collection also allows us to share the work of abortion funding with your membership. Knowledge and understanding of our work reduces stigma and positively impacts people who have had abortions or might need access to abortion in the future. The coming months will require everyone who cares about abortion access to be educated, engaged and ready to support this work in any way they can.

**Annual Budget:** \$1,339,795

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** For FY 2022-23 Direct service - 56% Personnel expenses - 36% Operational/programming costs - 8%

**Major sources of Funding:** Blue Ridge Abortion Fund is fully funded by donated support. Supporters include individuals (40%), houses of worship (.6%), foundation grants (56%), other income (3.4%).

## Sponsor Endorsements

**Sponsor Name:** Kate Fraleigh

**Role/relationship with organization:** I give money to the organization outside the social action collection. I know a number of the individuals who volunteer to answer the phones.

**Why I support this organization:** Since Roe v Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court the need for a strong and healthy place to have an abortion has grown. BRAF helps women from Virginia and from out of state. Many states to the south of us have passed restrictions on abortion necessitating travel to get what a woman wants. The need is great. Abortion decisions should be between a woman and her doctor.

**Sponsor Name:** Jane Howard

**Role/relationship with organization:** Sponsor

**Why I support this organization:** Our UU Congregation has a long history of being supportive & involved with BRAF since it began 30+ years ago as a volunteer organization. Members who were

deeply involved include:Pam Phillips & Sharon Utz, Co-Chairs of the first "Reproductive Rights Committee", Christine Gresser, Kate Fraleigh, & many others. The national UU Association has position papers and publications about Reproductive Choice noting strong links with the UU Purposes & Principals.



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**Blue Ridge Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)**

Our core purpose is to improve the health of our natural world for future generations.

**Organization Contact:** Lauren Taylor, Executive Director

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** Education and outreach are the heart of Blue Ridge PRISM's work in the community. Teaching individuals about the negative impacts of invasive plants and empowering them to take action leads more land stewards, homeowners, gardeners, volunteers, and communities to control invasive plants, reducing the harmful ecological effects of invasive plants in our region. In FY 2023, Blue Ridge PRISM impacted 3,727 individuals who participated in workshops, volunteer workdays, speaking engagements, professional training, educational programs, and received information at community outreach events.

Here in Albemarle County, one of Blue Ridge PRISM's projects is partnering with the Rivanna Conservation Alliance to help remove invasive plants along a five-mile stretch of the Rivanna River from the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Rivanna down to Moores Creek. The PRISM is assisting with several portions of the comprehensive Rivanna River Forest Health and Resilience Project, including training on invasive plant identification, training on control methods, developing marketing and outreach materials, interviewing select homeowners, designing the area homeowner survey, training volunteer leaders, and designing community based social marketing materials.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** Invasive plants touch all of our lives. They disrupt our waterways, destroy our farmlands, threaten our pollinators, damage our parks, hurt our economy, and impair our mental health. In December 2023, Blue Ridge PRISM convened an unprecedented and groundbreaking three-day workshop in Charlottesville, Virginia, to build a statewide coalition focused solely on invasive plants. Nearly 80 passionate participants from across the state attended "Imagining a Virginia without Invasive Plants: A Statewide Future Search Strategic Planning Workshop," representing state agencies, conservation nonprofits, Virginia legislators, educators, service providers, plant nurseries, land stewards, and more. Together they drafted a nine-point Common Agenda for suppressing invasive plants across the Commonwealth and building a broad coalition of stakeholders to create a shared vision and a systemwide strategic plan. Also in 2023, Blue Ridge PRISM launched a new Site Visit Program as a free service designed to provide technical assistance to individuals and communities in assessing their invasive

management challenges and creating a management plan. The program officially launched in January 2023 after a soft launch in summer of 2022. Between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023, our Invasive Management Specialists conducted site visits on 73 properties impacting almost 2,600 acres across our service area. Our staff interact with the clients, prepare for and conduct the site visit, provide relevant resources, and follow up to track progress and provide additional support. We believe this service provides invaluable guidance and long-term impact, and we look forward to visiting and educating even more land stewards in 2024.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** We would like to partner with the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont (BGP) in Charlottesville, Virginia, to make a huge impact in community education about invasive plants by installing a boot cleaning station and educational signage along the trails. BGP is a gem of a park serving the greater Albemarle community, and, as reclaimed land it is also host to huge infestations of a number of invasive plants. With nearly 2,000 attendees at BGP events in FY 2023, and countless daily visitors, this project would have a significant reach and ripple effect.

When placed at the trailhead, the PlayCleanGo® Boot Brush Station with Custom Interpretive Sign Panel from the North American Invasive Species Management Association provides a proven, interactive educational opportunity to introduce visitors to the problem of invasive plants. By using the boot cleaning station to clean their footwear, people learn about the vectors by which invasive plants spread, and how small actions can make a big difference. Also, our trail signage would help visitors identify invasive plants in the park and learn how vast the problem is. Each sign would feature a QR code to link people to more in-depth information, including control methods, through Blue Ridge PRISM's online Fact Sheets on invasive plants. This project could be replicable on public lands across our 3.6 million acre geography.

**Annual Budget:** \$402,000

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** Programs and grants - 87%, Management - 9%, Fundraising - 4%

**Major sources of Funding:** Donations & Foundation grants - 90%, Government grants - 6%, In kind donations - 2%, Workshop revenue - 1%, Interest & Misc income - 1%

## **Sponsor Endorsements**

**Sponsor Name:** Ellie Syverud

**Role/relationship with organization:** Financial supporter/volunteer

**Why I support this organization:** PRISM is a unique organization that provides education and outreach to the local community - as well as across the state - about the negative impact of invasive species, which are considered the most harmful factor in our environment. They are a collaborative organization working with other local environmental groups including the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont to green our environment.

**Sponsor Name:** Kim Grover

**Role/relationship with organization:** supporter

**Why I support this organization:** Fighting invasive species is important and difficult work, and keeping them under control means saving our own native species that suffer as a result of the invasive ones.



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**Bread & Roses-C'ville**

Advancing justice for people and ecosystems through actions that center food and community.

**Organization Contact:** Ann Majewski; Volunteer

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** Bread and Roses, an initiative of Trinity Episcopal Church, champions food justice and environmental stewardship. The name "Bread & Roses" carries profound historical significance, inspired by James Oppenheim's iconic poem first published in 1911. It symbolizes our belief that everyone deserves not only the essentials for sustenance—bread—but also the beauty, joy, and cultural fulfillment represented by roses. Our mission is to "Advance justice for people and ecosystems through actions that center food and community." We achieve this by utilizing two key parish resources: our gardens and grounds, which span nearly two acres and showcase sustainable environmental practices, and our commercial community kitchen, which supports local food entrepreneurs and provides a nurturing space for both people and the planet.

Our vegetable gardens supply fresh produce to Cultivate Charlottesville for redistribution in under-resourced communities and serve as a demonstration and educational site for sustainable gardening. Our landscape gardens, featuring native and edible plants, model best practices for our Piedmont ecosystem, based on the Eight Principles of Conservation Landscaping developed by the Chesapeake Landscaping Council. Additionally, our kitchen provides community members with opportunities to learn food safety and preservation skills and acts as an incubator for over 20 food businesses, assisting them in launching and growing.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** In 2023, Bread and Roses proudly advanced our mission through strategic partnerships and impactful community programs. One of our major achievements was our collaboration with the Piedmont Master Gardeners, which enabled us to host nine well-attended Garden Basics workshops at Trinity. These educational workshops connected participants to the "big picture" of gardening in a hands-on and engaging manner. We demonstrated that local and individual actions can create significant change. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our volunteers, we successfully cultivated over 240 pounds of produce in a limited space. Additionally, we made significant strides in preparing for future growth by installing new garden beds through partnerships with Building

Goodness, Martin Horn, and Allied Concrete.

Another notable achievement was our new partnership with Market Central on the Just Food, Just Economy initiative. Together, we co-authored a state-level grant aimed at creating employment opportunities and enhancing food access in our community. This initiative included hosting workshops for local food entrepreneurs, such as "Starting a Food Business 101" and "Food Handler" food safety training. These efforts not only supported local businesses but also strengthened community connections and promoted food sustainability.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** If selected for the monthly collection, we plan to enhance our visibility and open our grounds to provide practical education on a range of topics including organic vegetable gardening, composting, and the significance of native plants and wildlife habitats. To facilitate this, we will install informative signage throughout our gardens, landscapes, and pedestrian trail. We created the short "Trinity Trail" to create a walking link between neighborhoods; it features native trees, shrubs, and perennials. These signs will help visitors better understand and connect with our mission, reinforcing our role as an educational demonstration site. Our goal is to educate and inspire community members who interact with our gardens. Additionally, this initiative supports the Diocese of Virginia's creation care goals and the Unitarian Universalist principle of respecting the interdependent web of all existence, to which we all belong.

We recognize that racial, economic, and environmental equity and justice are inextricably linked. We address these disparities through various methods and partnerships, always focusing on local and individual impact. This approach includes growing food not only for our neighbors but also for invertebrates, birds, and other wildlife that depend on the native plants we cultivate. These species, in turn, pollinate our vegetable crops and nurture their young nearby. By adopting equitable landscape practices, such as edible landscapes, in areas where most people live and in ways that are manageable on a small scale, we foster a deeper connection to the earth. This connection is grounded in science and enriched by justice, love, and joy.

**Annual Budget:** \$68,975

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** Our 2023 budget was allocated in the following ways: 60% personnel 30% programming ( includes kitchen scholarships, workshop expenses, ect.) 10% maintenance of commissary kitchen ( kitchenware replacements, cleaning, ect.)

**Major sources of Funding:** Our major sources of income are as follows: Kitchen Income- 25% Church Income- 10% Partner Episcopal Church Income- 25% Grants- 40%

## **Sponsor Endorsements**

**Sponsor Name:** Kay Frazier

**Role/relationship with organization:** Supporter/Friend

**Why I support this organization:** At its inception in 2015, I have admired the vision and mission of the work of Bread and Roses. Over the years Bread and Roses has grown and now encompasses a large area of the Trinity campus. Bread and Roses speaks to the intersection of



social and environmental justice. The program works through education, partnerships, demonstration gardens, food distribution, and assisting small businesses to work towards a just world. The mission, vision, and values of Bread and Roses align perfectly with the mission of UUCville and the UUA principles. A small amount of additional funding will go a long way in assisting this worthy program in realizing its vision.

**Sponsor Name:** Jude Bias

**Role/relationship with organization:** supporter/friend

**Why I support this organization:** Social justice, environmental justice, food security, economic justice..... The mission, vision, and values of Bread and Roses touch on all the aspirations of our UUCville congregation. The program has grown from a small garden area that was planted in 2015 to a program that works in partnership with others to distribute food, educate through demonstration gardens, make a real difference in supporting fledgling small businesses, and create space that welcomes all in the community. It is a program that promotes caring for the earth and is a space that embraces the 7th principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." I am moved by the meaning of Bread and Roses: "The name communicates our belief that everyone deserves the essentials for sustenance—bread—alongside the beauty, joy, and cultural fulfillment that roses represent."



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**Central Virginia Community Justice**

Central Virginia Community Justice offers restorative processes for facilitating repair, accountability and healing after harm.

**Organization Contact:** Erin Campbell, co-director

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** Central Virginia Community Justice facilitates restorative justice processes so that those directly involved in harm have voice and choice in repair, safety and healing moving forward. For a year and a half we have done this primarily through restorative justice (RJ) processes for criminal cases in Charlottesville and Albemarle as a diversion from typical prosecution (though we also accept non-criminal harms and conflicts). To explain what we do, here's a snapshot of a recent case: A man driving on a suspended license hit someone exercising on the road. The driver fled; the survivor was gravely injured and very angry because he assumed it was intentional. The survivor asked the prosecutor if there was some way he could make a community impact, and the case was referred for RJ.

For three months CVCJ facilitators met individually with those involved. The facilitators explored exactly what the survivor needed for repair, and the root causes and contributing factors (so that a plan could be made with the responsible person to prevent it from happening again). The men met for a dialogue, along with family members and a representative from the cycling community. The survivor asked the driver hard questions, and found out that the strike was not intentional but instead because the driver was looking up something on his phone. The driver fled because he was afraid of losing custody of his children. The participants shared deeply during the conference; there were many tears, and laughter too. Then they came up with an agreement: the driver would give 25 presentations in the community about the dangers of distracted driving and the terrible impacts his decisions had on his family and the survivor. He is now halfway through his presentations, avoiding a felony conviction and jail time that would take him away from his children and his full-time job in construction. This creative solution embodies justice and accountability.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** We know that UU Cville is committed to anti-racism work. RJ not only provides the criminal legal system with an alternative option for people of color who are disproportionately charged with crimes, but it also provides the space to talk directly about race, which a courtroom does not. One of

CVCJ's biggest accomplishments this year has been completing several cases that included open conversations about race. One that stands out involved a Black school employee who had an altercation with the white mother of a white child in his care. The facilitators met with all involved several times, and the responsible person in particular was very anxious about the face-to-face meeting, saying that, "30 minutes is all I can handle." When facilitators met jointly with the two adults and the child, however, heartfelt words were exchanged, and the responsible person immediately connected with the child, stepping into accountability and listening deeply. They all spoke for over two hours! The two facilitators—a white woman and a Black man—engaged the whole group in a meaningful conversation about how race and institutions contributed to everyone's experience of the harm. Because of RJ, these charges will be dismissed upon completion of the agreement terms, which included counseling sessions for the responsible person and monetary restitution. In the post-process survey, both participants said they were "very likely" to recommend the process to others. CVCJ believes in the power of RJ to both heal individuals, and to address larger systemic harms like racism.

In terms of accomplishments in numbers for the last year, over 60 people participated in RJ processes, over 20 cases were initiated, and recent participant surveys show an average response of 9.4 out of 10 for their likelihood to recommend the program to others. One responsible person wrote, "I've learned that I am a great young father who just made a huge mistake. I've changed my demeanor and controlled my anger more better," and one harmed person wrote, "I don't want someone to suffer forever for a poor choice in their past. I believe in forgiveness and restoration and second chances."

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** \$2500-5000 would pay for one to two full RJ cases from start to finish, all costs included. This is mostly spent on wages for the "basket of support" that we surround participants with. Participants meet first with one of our directors who makes sure they understand what RJ is and voluntarily participate. Facilitators then meet with participants individually one or several times before bringing everyone together in the joint conference. Throughout, facilitators are supported by our case manager, who is checking in on them, brainstorming, affirming. CVCJ is different from many other RJ diversion programs in that our facilitators are not volunteers, but are paid an honorable wage. We know that if we operate on volunteers or pay low wages, we will have one small slice of Cville's demographics: older, white retired folks. We made the commitment early on to have a well-paid co-facilitation model (two facilitators together) because we knew that we would attract a wider range of ages, races and genders, and so that this valuable work could become a career path for those who engaged. It has worked—we have a skilled and diverse team!

Non-wage costs of a case include things like chart paper, markers, interpretation services, mileage reimbursement for participants who need help getting to meetings, and of course, food. (Food helps break the ice, reminding all participants that we are humans!)

**Annual Budget:** \$275,000

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** 65% direct services (wages for cases, case management, outreach), 20% admin (finances, HR, etc), 10% fundraising (grant writing, event planning, private donor cultivation), 5% supplies (food and materials)

**Major sources of Funding:** For FY24: 40% foundation grants, 33% individual donors, 27% state

and local grants. We had a major \$75,000 grant in FY24 that was a one-time grant, so we will be relying more on private donations in FY25.

## **Sponsor Endorsements**

**Sponsor Name:** Fritz Hudson

**Role/relationship with organization:** Facilitator (staff member), Donor

**Why I support this organization:** CVCJ structures our community's response to harm (including crime) to maximize our practice of the UU covenant "to affirm and promote: The inherent worth and dignity of every person, (&) Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations."

**Sponsor Name:** Chris Little

**Role/relationship with organization:** Supporter

**Why I support this organization:** I believe most people would much prefer restorative justice and remedies for themselves and their kin, if they were the harming party, yet our country defaults to a punitive prosecutorial system, which appeals to one's fear more than one's love, and which also disproportionately impacts BIPOC communities. I love that CVCJ promotes a love based restorative remedy and healing for all parties, and that it presents an alternative to a criminal-justice system that is often not just, especially for BIPOC people.



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**Charlottesville Public Housing Association of Residents**

PHAR improves the lives of low-income residents through community education and collective action!

**Organization Contact:** Emily Dreyfus

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** The mission of the Public Housing Association of Residents (PHAR) is to educate and empower low-income residents to protect and improve our own communities through collective action. The Board has always been majority Black and is the only local non-profit governed by low-income people. Our staff is also majority Black. PHAR is an active voice for improving racial and economic equity in the C'ville area.

PHAR's education and leadership development involves directly-impacted people in improving laws and policies. Our Internship Program is a six-month intensive program which builds knowledge and civic participation. We recently graduated 5 interns for the 2023-2024 team. They were actively involved with the city's zoning update process, the budget debates, and a maintenance campaign which had great results.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** Over the past year we prioritized civic participation to improve maintenance in Housing Authority neighborhoods and redevelopment. Many residents were living with pest infestations, poor quality repairs and often repairs that were not being done. The PHAR Interns developed a list of solutions after they spoke one-to-one with residents in every Housing Authority neighborhood. All of PHAR's top priority suggestions were implemented! Pest control has improved dramatically, and new maintenance staff is making sure high-quality repairs are made more quickly.

For redevelopment, PHAR supports Resident Planners to fully participate in site planning and decisions about how much affordable housing to add in their neighborhoods. This work has contributed to the complete renovation of Crescent Halls (105 apartments for senior citizens and people with disabilities), over 60 brand new apartments on S. First Street, and new buildings going up this year at 6th Street and South First Street Phase 2. Resident meetings discuss site plans, design of the buildings, naming the neighborhood, the UVA Clinic which will be part of the first phase of the 6th Street redevelopment and more.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?**

PHAR will benefit from increased public awareness and the congregation's financial support if we are given a Social Action collection. Grassroots donations, like the UUCC Social Action collection, help PHAR to be responsive in improving the lives of residents. We also advocate for expanding affordable housing in the region.

We greatly appreciate the support of the Unitarian Church and look forward to working with you in the future.

**Annual Budget:** \$360,000

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** UUCC's contributions went to meeting the mission of PHAR. Our budget is lean, with about 20% Internship Program, 32% Residents for Respectful Research, 8% Youth Programming, 14% Redevelopment Organizing, 15% for overhead, 11% for general Community Organizing.

**Major sources of Funding:** 42% restricted grants, 31% unrestricted contributions, 15% unrestricted grants, 10% restricted contributions, 2% misc.

## Sponsor Endorsements

**Sponsor Name:** Johanna Woodchild

**Role/relationship with organization:** Financial donor.

**Why I support this organization:** The internship program is phenomenal in training young adults and they learn to advocate effectively for their needs.

**Sponsor Name:** Edith Good

**Role/relationship with organization:** Member of PHAR Advisory Council since 2000. Between January 2007 and June 2023, attended monthly PHAR board meetings and donated money.

**Why I support this organization:** My favorite part of what they do is their internship program where residents attend classes to learn the workings of government. They train in public speaking to advocate to local and federal authorities for their rights and for programs needed to help them rise from public housing and accumulate means towards middle class.

**Sponsor Name:** Kate Fraleigh

**Role/relationship with organization:** In my work with the People's Coalition I have met a number of PHAR interns who work hard to make sure the residents' voices are heard. I have worked on projects with Emily Dryfus, the Interim Director. She is a wonderful leader. PHAR has made positiv

**Why I support this organization:** They do important work! Historically people living in public housing had no voice, no agency to impact their home life. With this organization they have power.



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**City of Promise**

Creating pathways from cradle to career: an evidenced based approach that supports empowered, self-sufficient families through education

**Organization Contact:** Price Thomas, Executive Director

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** City of Promise's (CoP) goal is to make a positive impact on generational poverty in Charlottesville through evidence-based programs and integrated services that build family self-sufficiency and prioritize academic engagement and achievement. CoP has historically served approximately 300 low-income and under-resourced individuals annually, who primarily live in Westhaven, Charlottesville's oldest and largest public housing site. In 2022, CoP's board voted to change our bylaws to expand our service area to reach other underserved, low-income families in Charlottesville. CoP takes a holistic, dual-generation approach to addressing generational poverty through four core programs: Dreambuilders, Pathway Coaching, LaunchPad, and Community Engagement. These core programs build parental self-sufficiency, family engagement in schools, community and school connectivity, and long-term student academic support and success, all of which contribute to disrupting the cycle of generational poverty.

Through our Dreambuilders program, CoP leverages our partnerships with other area community organizations to connect parents and caregivers with services to help meet basic needs (housing, food, income) and we employ a curriculum aimed at healthy and holistic parenting and goal achievement. Our Family Empowerment Coaches work with caregivers to help them meet these goals, providing parents and caregivers with encouragement, guidance, and connection to the resources they need to continue their education, complete job training, and meet other goals that build stability and self-sufficiency. CoP's Pathway Coaching program provides mentoring and coaching to support academic success and socioemotional health for students in grades 5-12. CoP's newest program, LaunchPad, is a partnership between CoP, Charlottesville City Schools (CCS), and the UVA School of Education and Human Development (UVAEHD) to support early elementary literacy for students in grades K-3, integrating support for parents (similar to our Dreambuilders program) with evidence-based in- and out-of-school early reading support for students. Parents with children in LaunchPad also participate in training in how to support their children's early literacy at home and school-based activities that strengthen connections between families and schools. Finally, CoP's Community Engagement programs provide opportunities for families and youth to participate in extracurricular activities, outings, and other community-based events. Together, these four

programs provide integrated support that address underlying causes of generational poverty and contribute to growing a culture of academic engagement and success for low-income families of color in Charlottesville.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** In 2023, CoP opened applications to our Dreambuilders program to participants throughout Charlottesville, fulfilling our goal of expanding our services to serve more low-income and marginalized communities beyond our historic Westhaven footprint. We received more than double the number of applications compared to 2022 and are prepared to expand the Dreambuilders program from a 19-week program to a year-long program that builds continued support for our families. One Dreambuilders participant wrote,

"Four months ago, my life was very chaotic and overall full of uncertainty. I was highly stressed daily, possibly about to lose my job, daycare was unreliable, and the bills were starting to pile up. While in the program there was one on one coaching and with the help of Dawn, I was able to sit down and set goals that I had wanted to accomplish. Her positive thoughts and constant encouragement kept me motivated and gave me a positive outlook on things."

Based on the success of CoP's Dreambuilders and Pathway Coaching programs, in Fall 2023 and in partnership with CCS and UVA, CoP began our LaunchPad program at Venable Elementary, providing our dual-generation, integrated support services to reach younger students in grades K-1. This pilot program is already showing signs of early success, with decreased absenteeism and tardiness among participating students. Participating parents are reporting that they are excited by the new strategies to help their children learn to read properly and feel more agency in the process. The teachers and principal of Venable have also noted an increased "connectivity" between these families and the school. The caretakers are more actively engaged in the child's learning and feel more comfortable and confident as critical figures in the process of building their children's literacy.

Families are also notably excited about the integrated services and how these positively affect a student's ability to grow academically. Easier and more streamlined access to complementary organizations and their offerings help elevate a child's opportunity to receive instruction and succeed academically. These early signs of success will help pave the way for CoP's planned expansion of LaunchPad into the other five CCS elementary schools.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** 100% of City of Promise's income comes from individual donations and grants. Our ability to provide integrated and holistic services to low-income families of color and other marginalized families in Charlottesville is dependent on raising these funds each year. Support from the UUCville monthly collection will support CoP's dual-generation approach to addressing generational poverty and will help us meet our goals of continuing to expand services to reach more underserved families in Charlottesville.

The monthly collection will support teens like Kilmore, a Pathway Coaching participant who says, "If it wasn't for City of Promise I wouldn't have had the opportunity to find a job next year. Thanks to City of Promise, I know I am capable of more than what I was doing before." Another participant writes, "City of Promise has guided me through big life choices like getting into college...Nothing is too big or too small for them to help with." As CoP expands our service area



and grows our LaunchPad program to start our involvement with students and families at an earlier age, we're confident that we'll have more and more of these success stories to share – and all of it is possible with the support of our community and groups like UUCville.

**Annual Budget:** \$883,000

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** Broadly, in 2023, CoP spent 66% of our funding on programs (direct services), 32% on administrative costs (including overhead), and 2% on fundraising.

**Major sources of Funding:** For FY25 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025), CoP's income is projected to be: 11% Individual Contributions 60% Foundation and Corporate Foundation Grants 29% Government/Municipal Grants

## Sponsor Endorsements

**Sponsor Name:** Edith Good

**Role/relationship with organization:** Supporter

**Why I support this organization:** I am not currently involved in COP but was very excited to hear, all those years ago, that a pilot program was trying to start up in West Haven inspired by Jeffery Canada's Bubble in New York. I attended a few meetings of the steering committee at that time.

COP's application tells me that the approach that their work takes against the racism-classism poverty-government stranglehold on this country is the most realistic way to relieve the oppression of poverty. The width and depth of the coverage of their program is admirable, and I am grateful to them.

**Sponsor Name:** Elizabeth Breeden

**Role/relationship with organization:** supporter

**Why I support this organization:** If there is any one thing that can improve our children's experience in school, it is the involvement of their family in their education. This is the goal of City of Promise through its various programs. Their experience has shown them that the family needs support in many ways in order to become true advocates for their children in education.



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**Common Ground Healing Arts, Inc.**

Common Ground offers wisdom, care and kindness across the lifespan.

**Organization Contact:** Alicia Lenahan, Executive Director

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** Established in 2010, the mission of Common Ground is to improve wellness throughout our community by expanding opportunities for affordable and accessible complementary health practices at community-based locations. We believe that wellness is a holistic integration of physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, fueling the body, engaging the mind, and nurturing the spirit. It is an active process through which people become aware of, and make choices toward, a thriving existence. Health is the state of physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Opening access to treatment is essential. We eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic, socio-economic and environmental barriers to starting a program of healing.

Common Ground provides acupuncture, massage, yoga and postpartum doula services to the community in partnership with several organizations. Region Ten has included Common Ground in all their community engagement events. Those include monthly visits to Westhaven, neighborhood events (S. 1st Street, 6th Street), Westhaven Days, and CRANU. The Blue Ridge Center has provided space for two clinics since 9/12/23. Region Ten has underwritten the cost of consumers receiving services. UVa Health Systems has included Common Ground in their programming in the Fifeville neighborhood as well as the Black Family Wellness Expo. MAPP2Health Equity has welcomed Common Ground to Healthy Streets Healthy People and Groove the Blues Away. We have also supported their programming at the Dunbar Rosenwald school in Fluvanna. Common Ground participates regularly in the Re-Entry One Stop events hosted by the Fountain Fund. Common Ground began offering postpartum doula care in May 2023. The expertise of the practitioners allows us to braid the benefits of complementary medicine with the supportive practices of postpartum doula care.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** Our commitment to this community has been unwavering in the face of significant change. On 6/30/23 CGHA moved out of the Jefferson School. It was difficult to leave our original home and it was the right business decision. Since transitioning to community-based programming we have seen our mission come to life. This was captured perfectly by a practitioner- "through this

transition, we all realized that Common Ground does not require a physical space in one location for the work to carry on. CGHA is the result of compassionate, empathetic healers and teachers who share their skills with their community. Anywhere this happens is a place where Common Ground can thrive: the idea continues to live on in the community it serves.”

Programming was in place on 7/1 to ensure continuity of care. We were active at community events throughout the summer. Classes and workshops were also scheduled. Our first community-based acupuncture clinic opened on 8/16 at the Community Band building. Clients responded immediately. Every appointment was taken. That initiative led to the Blue Ridge Center and encouraged us to launch a third acupuncture clinic in the Old Trinity Church in partnership with the Dairy Market. Two massage therapists still see CGHA clients in their offices.

After their first acupuncture session J asked their psychiatrist about reducing their psychotropic medication. Titration began. Two months later after receiving treatment every two weeks, J told the acupuncturist that they had smiled for the first time in years.

“Common Ground is a life saver. Living in this community as a young single person with an under median income makes accessing healing services impossible. With Common Ground I can come in for a massage or acupuncture to help with chronic pain and still know I can afford groceries and utilities.” Client

Since leaving the Jefferson School, CGHA has participated in 30 community events. Two hundred fifty-eight individuals have enjoyed short chair massage sessions. One hundred sixty six individuals have received auricular acupuncture treatments. In partnership with The Haven, we have offered 6 Sound Bath workshops. Weekly Qi Gong classes have been held at the Blue Ridge Center since 11/30. We have continued to provide chair massages at Westhaven monthly. We returned to Crescent Halls on 2/26. Regular programming will resume there soon.

“Common Ground Healing Arts has been a partner to many community organizations and an ever-present participant in community events, especially those geared toward serving underrepresented members of the community. We believe their commitment to providing affordable holistic services is unmatched in our community.” MAPP2Health Equity

“Every month, we encourage residents to take advantage of chair massage sessions. Regardless of the number of people who respond, Common Ground can be relied on to be present and to provide compassionate care.” Westhaven Clinic staff

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** Social Action funds will be used to pay a portion of the general operating expenses necessary to support community-based services.

Common Ground currently employs a full-time Executive Director, and a part-time (10 hours) Director of Family Services (Doula program). These people are responsible for all the back-office functions necessary to enroll clients in services. They are also responsible for all logistics related to holding clinics, providing services and programming in community settings. In a given week, Common Ground engages the services of 2-4 massage therapists and 3-4 acupuncturists. We work with 2 doulas. Classes and workshops are led by 1-2 instructors. These compassionate, empathetic healers and teachers can touch the lives of nearly 100 people.

Expenses include salaries, telephone and technology, database subscriptions and management, office and program supplies, and insurance. Common Ground uses space at the Blue Ridge Center, Old Trinity Church, and The Haven free of charge. We expect to start the search for office space later this year.

**Annual Budget:** \$145,000

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** Direct Service- 93%. Management- 4%. Fundraising- 3%

**Major sources of Funding:** Fees for Service,-34.5%. Grants-37.9%. Individual Donations-27.6%.

## **Sponsor Endorsements**

**Sponsor Name:** Shirley Paul

**Role/relationship with organization:** consumer

**Why I support this organization:** Common Ground provides low-cost health treatments for our community. I have used it for preventive care that I can't find elsewhere, such as zero-balancing massage and acupuncture.

**Sponsor Name:** Alicia Lenahan

**Role/relationship with organization:** Client

**Why I support this organization:** I have been a client at Common Ground for 7+ years receiving acupuncture, massage and participating in a variety of classes. Common Ground has enriched my life. I could not afford weekly acupuncture without the sliding fee scale they offer. The quality services I receive improve my physical and emotional well-being helping me to help my therapy clients. Many of my clients have received wellness services they could not otherwise afford without Common Ground. Trauma Informed Yoga and acupuncture have been especially helpful for some of my therapy clients. I am encouraged by the diversity in clientele since Common Ground has moved to a community-based program model.



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**Community Investment Collaborative**

CIC empowers small businesses for big change.

**Organization Contact:** Stephen Davis, President

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** CIC strengthens our community and contributes to economic development by fueling the success of under-resourced entrepreneurs through education, mentoring, financing, and networking.

Our core programs include:

- A 16-week entrepreneur workshop for new and existing businesses.
- Mentoring, business counseling, and technical assistance, including hosting the Central Virginia Small Business Development Center (CV SBDC)
- Financing and microloans up to \$50,000
- Networking and market access opportunities

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** From 2022 to 2023, we doubled the amount of microloans we did - to just over \$1 million from \$470,000 in 2022. This big jump is on top of a large investment - \$500,000, that we made in the New Hill Development Corporation BEACON Community Kitchen. This kitchen will serve as an incubator for future food businesses - products and services. It will create a space where they can test and start without having to take as much risk on building out their own space. These were very large jumps for us, and we were able to secure the capital to make it happen without having to slow down lending. Most importantly, they mean that:

-Aris Cuadra is a highly experienced chef who has dedicated his entire adult life to the culinary arts. He has been an integral part of our local restaurant scene for over a decade, having worked at esteemed establishments such as the Clifton, Tavola, Pasture, and Cafe Bocce. Aris had a long-standing dream of venturing out on his own, and in 2023, he finally made it a reality by launching The WICH Lab in the CODE building. To turn his dream into a reality, Aris completed CIC's 16-week workshop and secured a microgrant and loan, which helped him to finish his space buildout, make inventory purchases, and successfully launch.

-Khadija Hemmati fled Afghanistan in 2016 and came to the United States in search of new opportunities not readily available to women in her home country. She has since established

Khadija's Kitchen, a catering company that specializes in authentic Afghan cuisine with a unique international twist. As a graduate of CIC's entrepreneur workshop, Khadija is a proud borrower and an active participant in our Financial Management Program. Her determination and success serve as a testament to what can be achieved with hard work and perseverance.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** Donations made through the Unitarian Universalist Church will help more entrepreneurs learn what they need to know to realize their dreams of growing a business. Your support will allow entrepreneurs to be able to receive a scholarship to participate in our 16-week Entrepreneur Workshop. The workshop teaches you to determine if your business or business idea is viable and then the basics of running a business. Beyond what they learn about business and themselves through the program, they make valuable connections with individuals with different backgrounds, skills, and life experiences that they may not have interacted with before. These connections strengthen our neighborhoods, community, and region.

After the program, those connections continue as the entrepreneurs pursue their businesses and utilize our loan program, mentor program, and other support services. These communities of entrepreneurs support each other and create more opportunities for those in future workshops.

**Annual Budget:** \$2,212,119

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** 88% of expenses were spent on programs, 6% on management and 5% on fundraising. Across all categories, about 55% of staff costs.

**Major sources of Funding:** 48% - Government (local, state, federal) 10% - Corporate and Business Support 16% - Individuals 18% - Foundations 8% - Earned Revenue (Interest on loans, admin services, tuition on workshops)

## Sponsor Endorsements

**Sponsor Name:** Laura A Horn

**Role/relationship with organization:** former board member; work group leader, mentor, donor

**Why I support this organization:** CIC has, for more than a decade, empowered aspiring entrepreneurs, most of whom lack the privileges of a business education, a network, and start up funds; it lifts up individuals, their families, and their communities. It is at CIC work sessions and events that I experience the wide diversity and business camaraderie I that wish for everyone, and the results--human and economic--speak loudly to the success of the program and its graduates.



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville**

Homeownership built through Habitat for Humanity empowers families-of-color to leave substandard housing, break the cycle of poverty, and gain dignity and intergenerational wealth, while offering our community a path to heal a history of housing injustice.

**Organization Contact:** Kelly Eplee- Director of Donor Relations

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** Since 1991, Habitat has brought people together to build and rebuild homes and communities while catalyzing new pathways for low-wealth families to achieve safe, decent, affordable housing. We have helped over 350 families move into new Habitat homes and another 2,000+ neighbors achieve sustainable and affordable housing solutions. As we have grown, our work has evolved from building a house at a time to developing vibrant, sustainable, mixed-income communities where low-income families can achieve their dreams of homeownership. We achieve our mission of a liveable, vibrant, and integrated greater Charlottesville area through three “pillars”: building (new homes and communities), rebuilding (neighborhood revitalization and rehabilitation), and housing system development (housing policy advocacy and community engagement). Our Core Homeownership program provides partner families with financial empowerment coaching, offering a suite of financial and educational services and referrals to other community agencies that provide wrap-around support.

Over the past several years, we have expanded our offerings to include Habitat’s “Pathways to Homeownership” (P2H) program, an offshoot of our traditional Core Homeownership model. P2H focuses on expanding affordable homeownership opportunities, strongly emphasizing the advancement of Black homeownership. UU Cville can designate a contribution specifically to the Pathways Program. Pathways combines the proven effectiveness of the Habitat homeownership support model with key external partnerships and a creative layered financing model leveraging the private market to qualify and support families between 40% and 80% of AMI in purchasing starter homes on the private market. This component of our work is vital and was created in response to deep listening conversations throughout the community about the barriers Black families faced in accessing homeownership opportunities.

Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud. (Go for the heartstrings here.)\*

Black homeownership is a key component of advancing racial equity in a deeply segregated City with a long history of racist/disenfranchising housing policy: from redlining to racial covenants

and deed restrictions, Charlottesville has a long path ahead to redress these deep inequalities and systemic harms. Homeownership is the foundational path for building generational wealth in this country, making it an essential tool in diminishing racial and socioeconomic inequality in our community. Habitat specifically builds mixed-income communities to not only help Black families move out of generational poverty caused by racism, but to contribute to desegregating and integrating Charlottesville's neighborhoods for a more vibrant, connected community.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** On a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon last week, two Habitat Partner Families were honored at a dedication ceremony recognizing their accomplishment of homeownership in the Old Trail Village community of Crozet, Virginia. One of the new homebuyers, Katrena Cooper, a dedicated employee of UVA dining (Aramark) for sixteen years and mother of three young adults, looks forward to "cleanliness, peacefulness, and something to call [her] own" with her new home purchase. Her new neighbor Tanjah Wheeler shared similar sentiments, "It's been a long, long, long journey, but I'm so happy for... my support system that's been on my side, pushing me through the whole time... I'm so excited to start this new journey of my life. We are super excited to start living here in Old Trail." "We are so thrilled for Katrena and Tanjah," said Habitat President and CEO Dan Rosensweig. "Crozet and Old Trail in particular are wonderful places to live, but opportunities for affordable housing are increasingly challenging there."

Victoria Hawkins has lived in Charlottesville for most of her life. In 2018, she saw a Habitat flier on the mailbox and decided to attend a meeting to see what it was all about. "My parents had their own home. I want my own home. I don't want to rent anymore," Hawkins emphatically affirmed. After talking to her dad who had his own mortgage, Victoria came to realize that if she could come up with a couple hundred dollars additional a month, she too could pay a mortgage instead of rent. And while Hawkins was originally disappointed that her credit situation prevented her from qualifying immediately for the Habitat homebuyer program, she was glad to know that Habitat had recently created a second chance opportunity – the Pathways program — to keep her moving toward her dream after a little more work. Launched in 2018 to open more doors to homeownership, the Pathways program offers deeply low income, debt burdened applicants intensive one-on-one financial coaching, group meetings, homebuyer education courses, and job training and placement coaching to put participants on the path for home buying success. Since that time, 18 individuals have graduated from the program and purchased homes. "We realized that there was a whole generation of long-time City residents who had had their credit wiped out by predatory lending and who, but for Habitat, wouldn't have a chance at accessing affordable housing, much less homeownership," said Habitat President and CEO Dan Rosensweig.

"So we made a fundamental choice to reach deeper, to open up our doors wider so that families who had been locked out – in particular foundational African American families – could share in the blessings of homeownership." There were many times that Hawkins wanted to give up. But looking back, she's extremely proud of what she's accomplished and excited about her future. Now "it's happy tears," she shared while trying to hold back her emotions. "To have the people that I can say were there for me and motivated me – I loved it. It kept me going." Hawkins, the mother of two grown girls (one adult, one teen), is now a Habitat-approved homebuyer. She has selected her future home, one that Habitat recently repurchased and restored on Paton Street in the Fifeville neighborhood. "I fell in love. Even the expression on my



kids' faces – they loved the house. [The] location really spoke to me because I don't drive. And I work for UVA – the Contact Center for UVA going on 20 years in June! It's convenient and it's close for me to walk," said Hawkins. Victoria is most excited about getting her keys, and also to have her own washer and dryer. To the Habitat supporter community, Hawkins says, "I just want to thank everybody for everything you've done and continue to do."

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** While Habitat's operating budget may seem substantial, we depend on community partners like UU Cville for ongoing, sustainable grassroots support. UU Cville can designate gifts directly to the Pathways Program should you choose. That would be very helpful. Most of our operating costs go directly to the increasing housing development costs and are largely funded through public dollars. However, public funding and grants often come with intensive reporting requirements regulations and are typically paid through reimbursements after construction is in progress or complete.

Private foundations, private grants, and individual giving are the key levers that extend the reach of our operating budget to generate more efficient cash flow and open the doors of possibilities for our programming. Every dollar brought into our organization through grassroots fundraising elevates the amount of work we're able to complete and sustains the vital services that are provided by our staff to the community. The financial partnerships we've been able to leverage for Pathways 2 Housing require creative funding solutions outside of traditional public grant funding in housing development - this is where the gracious investment of communities around the Charlottesville area enables our organization's success. Through ongoing support from the Social Action Collection, we could invest further in Black homeownership in the City of Charlottesville.

**Annual Budget:** \$25,669,578

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** Construction and Land Costs- 35.7% Southwood Operations and Development- 35.7% Program Services- 20.1% Mission Support/Admin- 4.8% Habitat Store- 3.8%

**Major sources of Funding:** Homeowner mortgage payments and lot sales- 46.4% Private Donations, 19.5% Government Grants- 10.7% Financing Activities- 12.4% Habitat Store- 5.6% Southwood Operations- 5% Other- .2%

## **Sponsor Endorsements**

**Sponsor Name:** Julianne Allen

**Role/relationship with organization:** Volunteer

**Why I support this organization:** Home ownership has been a major source of stability for me and my children. I want to help others achieve that also.

**Sponsor Name:** Amy Nash

**Role/relationship with organization:** past volunteer

**Why I support this organization:** I believe that the Habitat for Humanity Pathways Program's mission to "empower families-of-color to leave substandard housing, break the cycle of poverty, and gain dignity and intergenerational wealth, while offering our community a path to heal a history of housing injustice" is highly congruent with our UU faith principles, and with UUCville's mission statement, especially the last line: "Together we work for equity, justice, and peace for all people and the planet." Supporting home ownership for families of color in our community is a wonderful way for us to put our love in action and live our UU values.



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**LilyPads Housing**

Providing cozy homes away from home for pediatric medical families

**Organization Contact:** Maggie Williams, Operations Assistant

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** LilyPads Housing provides pediatric families that must travel to UVA Medical Center for their child's treatment with free housing. We pair vetted guests with volunteer hosts within our community. Our founder, Jen Koym, started LilyPads after staying with a similar organization in Boston while her daughter underwent open-heart surgery. We've housed families from all across Virginia, as well as others from out of state! In 2023, we provided 521 nights of free housing, saving families around \$78,080 in hotel fees.

In addition to providing housing for out-of-town pediatric families, we have various other programs designed to provide support to our guests and other pediatric hospital families. Our Holistic Support program allows us to partner with other community organizations and members to provide families with meals, haircuts, massages, gifts, and sibling outings. We've provided kits filled with toys and activities for hospitalized children and their siblings through our Sunshine for Sibs program, and delivered self-care totes stuffed with hospital must-haves for the parents/guardians of UVA's cardiology unit. We want to make sure that families' physical and emotional needs are being met during their child's hospitalization.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** In 2023, we were able to provide housing for a family of five for 211 days! The family's youngest member, Alison, was born with severe congenital heart defects and, at eight weeks old, was placed on the waitlist for a heart transplant. Living several hours from UVA, it was imperative that the family find a place to stay in Charlottesville until Alison could get the surgery she needed. Alison has two big siblings who also needed to be with the family, making it harder for them to find housing. Thankfully, we had the perfect host available and we were able to house them all! After spending three and a half months with us, Alison received her new heart! Her family continued their stay with us while Alison recovered and she was eventually discharged to our host's home where she stayed with her family for follow-up appointments. After many months, it was our delight to say goodbye to Alison and her family when they were finally able to return home. We heard from the family recently and are overjoyed to share that Alison is thriving at 15 months old! We are incredibly grateful and proud that we were able to provide housing for

Alison's family.

Another accomplishment that we're proud of is the launching of our Sunshine for Sibs program! We partnered with students at Stony Point Elementary and an independent duo of local siblings to fill and assemble entertainment kits for the children at UVA Hospital. Together we were able to provide 44 boxes of awesome play kits filled with toys, activities, and crafts! The kits were distributed to various UVA clinics, including the NICU, a postpartum clinic, pediatric cardiology, and the emergency department!

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** To be the recipients of the UU monthly collection would allow us to continue and expand our programming so that we can support more pediatric families. We would like to refresh and renew our Sunshine for Sibs program periodically throughout the year, as well as provide regular donations of care-kits for in-patient families. We hope to create Welcome Bags/Hospital Survival kits for all of our guests.

Additionally, we are in the process of developing a regular "Caregiver Chat" support group that would give pediatric families a safe place to create community with others who understand the challenges of having a child hospitalized. We anticipate needing to rent a conference space near UVA hospital to facilitate this support group. The monthly collection would help us sustain our ability to offer our current and future programs of support.

**Annual Budget:** \$15,000

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** The bulk of our funds goes towards paying our only employee, who works part-time for us, a living wage. The need for LilyPads Housing grew so that the organization was no longer able to function with only volunteers and retaining a paid Operations Assistant is critical to our ability to continue intaking, vetting, and placing out of town UVA pediatric families in our volunteer host homes and organizing and implementing other holistic supports for families who are inpatient. 18.44% Administrative 12% Direct Services 4% Host Trainings 73% Single staff salary

**Major sources of Funding:** Primarily individual donors and some small grants

## Sponsor Endorsements

**Sponsor Name:** Amy Wissekerke

**Role/relationship with organization:** Member of LilyPads Housing Board

**Why I support this organization:** LilyPads Housing meets a community need that is not met by other organizations: medium to longer term housing for pediatric families (including siblings or extended family) visiting UVA Hospital for care. It also helps connect families to more holistic care and support while in Charlottesville.

**Sponsor Name:** Kristin Taverna

**Role/relationship with organization:** Volunteer and supporter

**Why I support this organization:** Lilypads Housing provides a much needed service to families as they navigate very difficult medical situations. I am so grateful Lilypads Housing can ease some of the stress and burden families feel when they need to plan for long term hospital stays.



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**Living Energy Farm**

Let's end energy poverty!

**Organization Contact:** Debbie Piesen, solar project manager

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** Living Energy Farm is a community and sustainable technology development center in Louisa, VA. Since 2010, we have lived off-the-grid, demonstrating and promoting sustainable technologies that are accessible to everyone, not just the wealthy. Our focus is on affordable, demand-side solutions like conservationist design, alternative energy storage (minimizing the need for expensive batteries), and direct use of solar electricity. We call our energy system a Direct Drive DC Microgrid (DC Microgrid for short).

For many years, we've been offering tours, workshops, and educational programs at our farm. In 2022, we teamed up with Serenity Solidarity, a POC-led non-profit in Louisa, to promote DC Microgrids in communities that do not have access to reliable grid power. Together we set up direct drive solar systems to power "Free Food Fridges," refrigerators that are open to the public and kept stocked with food from local food banks. We also do outreach beyond Louisa county, promoting DC Microgrids as a solution in places where energy poverty is more common. Our most active outreach project is in Puerto Rico, and our main collaborator on that project is El Departamento de la Comida. El Depa is a non-profit based in Caguas, Puerto Rico which promotes food sovereignty by supporting small growers. El Depa works on energy sovereignty issues as well. In their words, "No hay soberanía alimentaria sin soberanía energética." (There is no food sovereignty without energy sovereignty.)

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** We are proud to see the impact grow from our ongoing educational work in the Caribbean. In the summer of 2023 we trained 10 more people from Puerto Rico and Jamaica in DC Microgrid installation at our farm in Louisa. Two community-scale DC Microgrid installation projects came out of this training, one at a permaculture farm in Jamaica, and the other at an urban garden in Caguas, Puerto Rico. We are also proud to be making progress convincing Puerto Rican solar companies to promote our technology. Ricardo Martinez, who attended our 2023 training, owns and operates Energiza PR, a solar equipment distribution company in Caguas. After the training, he began distributing and installing DC equipment through his company. Closer to home, we continue to offer tours and educational events for the general public of the

microgrid at Living Energy Farm. Additionally, we expanded the DC Microgrids at Little Flower Catholic Worker house as well as Magnolia House, a cooperative house in the town of Louisa that is now almost completely off the grid. Both of these homes are in a good position to be outreach centers for these technologies in our local community.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** We would like to use this funding for a cost share program for direct drive solar refrigeration. Reliable refrigeration is a critical need in Puerto Rico, where temperatures are always high, blackouts are common, and elders often need to keep medications cool. The upfront cost is a significant obstacle, and our systems do not qualify for government funding sources for solar (ironically, because they are too small). The cost with installation for a solar refrigerator is \$1400. If we are chosen for this year's collection, we will establish a cost share program that would allow for the distribution of 8 solar refrigeration systems at half price, around \$600 per customer, making them much more accessible to regular Puerto Ricans.

El Departamento de la Comida is able and willing to organize the application process for this cost share program. Their outreach capacity is such that they will be able to reach people who are in real need of this technology, as well as connecting with sites that will be effective demonstrations of this technology to the local community, helping to spread the word.

**Annual Budget:** \$50,000

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** 60% solar equipment, 20% shipping, 10% travel expenses, 10% training program.

**Major sources of Funding:** \$15,000- sales and services provided \$30,000- private donations \$5,000- grants

## Sponsor Endorsements

**Sponsor Name:** Danny Gray

**Role/relationship with organization:** Enthusiastic observer

**Why I support this organization:** After a year of observing Living Energy Farm, I continue to be impressed and inspired by their work that increases energy independence by sharing hands-on knowledge of a Direct Drive DC Microgrid (D3M) system that can power a home, business, farm or a community and reduce environmental demands. LEF's "teach a man to fish" approach with proven innovative real world lower-cost alternative energy solutions provides a roadmap for energy equity and environmental justice through workable solutions for EVERYONE - regardless of income - on a minimal organization budget that delivers a great deal to communities in Virginia and further afield.

**Sponsor Name:** Nancy Hurrelbrinck

**Role/relationship with organization:** donor and huge fan

**Why I support this organization:** Living Energy Farm is bringing affordable solar energy to sites

in Puerto Rico and Jamaica where access to power is limited. Despite having a tiny budget, they are spreading a model that could be transformative for the eleven million people worldwide who lack access to electricity; I'm especially excited that LEF is working with a solar provider in Puerto Rico, helping them to shift to LEF's affordable DC-powered, less-battery-intensive approach.





**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**New Beginnings Christian Community**

We provide food for everyone with dignity and kindness

**Organization Contact:** Co-Pastor Liz Emrey

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** New Beginnings Food Ministry provides fresh produce, meat, bakery items, dairy and canned and dry goods for 300 people each week. We treat every "shopper" with dignity, not requiring them to give us any paperwork. We let them choose what they want, rather than selecting items for them that they do not or cannot eat. We even offer diapers, Depends, and feminine hygiene supplies, as well as advice on how to cook unfamiliar vegetables, such as eggplant and plantain. Donations come from Giant, Walmart, Food Lion and the Blue Ridge Food Bank. The city and county social services, the International Rescue Committee, UVA and Martha Jefferson hospitals, plus the Blue Ridge Food Bank and numerous food distribution websites direct their clients to our Food Ministry. Many of our "shoppers" tell us that they "do not know what we would do without the New Beginnings Food Ministry."

We have reached out to several new sources for volunteers, who have formed a community of respect and caring for one another. These twenty dedicated workers come weekly from Congregation Beth Israel, your congregation, St. George's Catholic Church in Scottsville, several Christian churches, including our own church and the community at large. Two clients from Region Ten come every week to help us stack, distribute the groceries and clean up afterwards. They are gracious and kind to everyone who comes in our door and are learning to be responsible and respected workers. A woman, who volunteers as a Community Services requirement, supervised by your own Rev. Fritz Hudson, has told us, "I love working at New Beginnings, where I can help people who have struggled like me."

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** We have expanded our delivery services. A Jewish UVA professor brings boxes of groceries to home bound refugee families with too many small children to use the bus services and to one psychiatric patient who is reluctant to leave her home. We deliver food to those who do not have transportation or are recently released from the hospital. A senior citizen, who lives at Crescent Hall subsidized apartments, recently was at UVA hospital twice having suffered several strokes. She calls our church, and a volunteer takes an order over the phone of what she likes to eat. The groceries are then delivered to a very grateful recipient, who is unable to come to

our church, but is in desperate need of food.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** Last year, we were given a grant by the Blue Ridge Food Bank to purchase a new energy saving refrigerator and a new freezer. This has helped us store more frozen meats and keep more fresh produce for our "shoppers." But with five freezers and two refrigerators our electric bill has increased by 20%

We also use our church building an extra 20 hours a week, including the time we set up and clean up before and after we distribute the groceries. Our gas bill for our air conditioning and heating has more than doubled, plus the use of the toilets for our "shoppers" has increased our water bill. Overall our utility bill is now around \$6,000 a year. This is a real strain on our financially limited congregation. If you could provide 50% (\$3,000) of our utility bill , that would lift an enormous weight off of our shoulders.

**Annual Budget:** \$30,234

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** Personnel 24%, Overhead 42%, direct services 34%

**Major sources of Funding:** Congregation 36%, Non-members 31%, Grants 33%

## Sponsor Endorsements

**Sponsor Name:** Greta Dershimer

**Role/relationship with organization:** donor and volunteer during 2023

**Why I support this organization:** I am impressed with their system of providing a wide variety of foods and other items, and encouraging "shoppers" to choose for themselves the items they want, so nothing is wasted. I also marvel at the ways they continue to expand their program, this year finding new sources for volunteers, and new ways to deliver food to refugee families.

**Sponsor Name:** Elizabeth Breeden

**Role/relationship with organization:** Volunteer

**Why I support this organization:** New Beginnings Food Pantry is a storefront church fulfilling the mission of giving food "with no questions asked." They have become the food pantry for folks on the street, illegal immigrants and immigrants who are nervous about their status with the "government." They are known to be safe. Therefore they are also a place where those who experience significant mental health issues feel welcome and safe both to receive food and to volunteer.



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**PACEM**

PACEM facilitates the outpouring of love to our most vulnerable neighbors.

**Organization Contact:** Liz Yohn, Interim Executive Director

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** PACEM operates low-barrier shelter and other programs in greater Charlottesville to alleviate the challenges of homelessness. For 20 years, our core work is around winter emergency shelter for adults, hosted by area congregations in partnership with a wide array of other community groups and volunteers. Since 2018 we have also operated housing programs for seniors and women, and during the pandemic (March 2020-June 2023) we operated the year-round hotel-based sheltering projects for our community.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** (1) We opened our 2023-2024 winter shelter season a full week early in response to the Market Street Park encampment; when we closed 25 weeks later, we had served the most number of individuals in any of our previous seasons: 294!

(2) In February 2024, our oldest shelter guest secured a housing voucher and moved into her own apartment again in time for her 74th birthday. This was a huge effort by our women's case manager over two years of shelter service!

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** Our shelter operation costs approximately \$5,000 per week, largely to pay living wages for our seasonal staff. This season our base wage for monitors was \$20/hr.

**Annual Budget:** Approx. \$600K

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** 75% personnel, 20% direct services, 5% overhead

**Major sources of Funding:** 40% individual donors, 45% grants and foundations, 10% congregations/groups, 5% businesses

**Sponsor Endorsements**

**Sponsor Name:** Beverly Gorham

**Role/relationship with organization:** Provided food and hosted meals for PACEM for the past 7 years

**Why I support this organization:** I feel that every person deserves food and shelter. I

appreciate the opportunity to give back to people in our community.

**Sponsor Name:** Linda McGee

**Role/relationship with organization:** Volunteer and financial supporter

**Why I support this organization:** I have volunteered with and supported PACEM for the last 8 years because they meet the needs of the homeless without discrimination and with an abundance of compassion.



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**Partner for Mental Health**

Educating, Advocating, Connecting for Mental Health.

**Organization Contact:** Kate Acuff, Executive Director

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** Partner for Mental Health provides community navigation to vulnerable individuals with serious mental illness or substance use disorder and their families. Two of our programs support clients who have become entangled with law enforcement due largely to their poorly managed mental health. This work includes working with the District Court's Therapeutic Docket clients. These individuals must follow strict protocols including drug testing, seeing mental health providers, attending court, and other requirements to avoid jail time. The second is a jail re-entry program PMH has developed with the Albemarle Charlottesville Regional Jail working with inmates with mental health diagnoses facilitating their transition back to our community.

We are also working with Albemarle County's HART (Human Resources Alternative Response Team) program, which is a co-responder model of follow-on support for 911 callers in mental health or substance use crises. The goal here is to connect individuals with community support to address their needs, reduce adverse outcomes with a police response in mental health crises, and to reduce repeat 911 calls. We are also working with Charlottesville in the development of their co-response program, ANCHOR, and will be providing two staff when it launches in July.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** All of our work is focused on either mitigating the impact of legal entanglements for persons with mental illness or substance use disorder or, with two of our newer projects, preventing adverse interactions with law enforcement to begin with.

Last year entered contracts with the County (HART) which is a partnership with the County's Department of Social Services, the Police Department and Fire & Rescue. The goal of HART is to diffuse crisis situations to prevent the need for jail or hospitalizations when possible. Since last summer, HART has responded to over 200 calls. We are also working with the City to develop and staff a similar co-response team (ANCHOR project).

Additionally, April marks the sixth anniversary of the Albemarle District Court's Therapeutic Docket and PMH has been providing client navigation since its beginning. Our native Spanish speaking navigator is working to become a certified court interpreter and her presence on the Docket team has increased the participation of Latinx clients. Last year we hired a navigator for the Docket who is a Certified Peer Support Specialist, and who has set up a peer support group

with the Docket clients. Last year, PMH also contracted with the Albemarle Charlottesville Regional Jail to provide re-entry support for persons with mental illness diagnoses.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** Two key ways. First, it would increase our ability to provide some modest support to our clients. Some, particularly those re-entering from ACRJ, may need a night or two in a motel before finding a residential treatment option or supported housing, help with transportation (occasionally out of the area), modest clothing (usually from Goodwill or other thrift stores), application fees, and occasional meals or coffee when we meet with them. Second, we have very little budgeted for professional development for our staff. Although we are an affiliate of Mental Health America, for example, and the annual meetings are in DC, we lack the resources to attend. Other important trainings, which we are undertaking now, include training for state certification as a Qualified Peer Support Specialist, and another to be a certified court interpreter. There are also opportunities for training connected with the co-responder programs in the County (HART) and the City (ANCHOR).

**Annual Budget:** \$293,921

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** Personnel 95.9%, Overhead 3.4%, Client Expenses 0.7%

**Major sources of Funding:** Contracts 28%, Federal/State Grants 43%, City/County Grants 12.4%, Other Grants 6%, Individual Donations 6%, Investment Draw 6.2%

## Sponsor Endorsements

**Sponsor Name:** Elizabeth Breeden

**Role/relationship with organization:** Former Board member, donor

**Why I support this organization:** Partner for Mental Health provides much needed support for folks experiencing mental health challenges especially those leaving the jail system and those in need of support when in crises without systems of support. No one can find the support systems available in our region without this guidance, this warmth of understanding and the opportunities which are unknown when in the midst of needing mental health care but not knowing where it is.

**Sponsor Name:** Sue Hess

**Role/relationship with organization:** staff member

**Why I support this organization:** Partner for Mental Health serves many of the most vulnerable members and families in our community. Helping folks with mental illness navigate the criminal justice system and the health care system requires much expertise and networking, which PMH provides.



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**ReLeaf Cville**

Nurturing kids and communities through nature

**Organization Contact:** Roxanne White, Vice Chair

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** ReLeaf Cville is a public private partnership initiated by the City's Tree Commission that partners with the Nature Conservancy, the Batten Foundation, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and the City of Charlottesville to protect the health of our low tree canopy neighborhoods from the heat impacts of climate change. Charlottesville's tree canopy cover has declined from 50% to 38% in 10 years with the rate of decline more than doubling in the last 4 years. What this means is that 12 out of Charlottesville's 19 neighborhoods are now below 40% canopy cover, which are considered "unhealthy neighborhoods", susceptible to heat related illnesses, as well as increased energy costs. The lowest canopy neighborhoods are called "heat islands", which historically have been subjected to inequitable development policies and redlining, and now house many of the city's lowest income residents.

How do we create more healthy neighborhoods? We do this in three major ways: 1) Planting trees in low canopy neighborhoods to cool homes and outdoor spaces; 2) Preserving existing large shade trees; 3) Educating kids and families about trees and nature. ReLeaf goes to the elementary schools to teach young children the value of trees and green spaces; we sponsor a career fair at CHS to teach high school students about green industry jobs; we work to get teens out into nature by providing outdoor recreational activities and volunteer opportunities; we target and canvas the lowest canopy neighborhoods to offer free trees, as well as provide energy saving information; we use local volunteer arborists to select the trees and the planting sites for each homeowner; we plant the trees and provide free follow up.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** In collaboration with Charlottesville High School, as well as direct advertising, ReLeaf recruited 10 teens ages 13 - 18 from the high school and local middle schools to participate in a 2-week program to learn about climate change, the importance of trees, as well as the negative health impacts of increasing heat on their own neighborhoods. On one of the class days, the Master Naturalists took the group to Ivy Creek to walk the trails, looking at the beautiful trees and discovering wildlife they had never seen before. Even the 13-year-old girls were delighted by what they discovered in the streams and under the rocks. None of them had ever been there before. The students were also taught how to approach homeowners to tell them about the free trees and why they were important. A month later, each student went out with an adult

volunteer to canvas the Rose Hill neighborhood (the 10th and Page neighborhood was canvased in 2022). They learned a lot about trees, but they also had a new awareness of the importance of the environment and a sense of their own accomplishment. We were proud of them.

The second accomplishment was planting 129 trees in the Rose Hill neighborhood last fall. Rose Hill is a small neighborhood of 123 households who owned their homes (over 60% of the neighborhood properties are rentals). We expected to get a 30% response rate, which would be about 37 trees. Instead, we planted 61 trees on private property, which reflected a 50% positive response rate. Also, ReLeaf, with assistance from the City Forester, planted 68 trees on public property, which included two school sites, Burley Middle School and the Community Lab School, and the Madison Avenue public housing site. We were surprised by our success in planting over three times as many trees as the prior year and delighted by the positive response from the Rose Hill homeowners.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** Our Green Team members, excited by what they learn in our summer training program, need more opportunities throughout the year to work together on expanding the tree canopy and green spaces throughout C'ville' neighborhoods. Similar successful teen programs have spring and fall projects for teens, some of which could be initiated by the teens themselves and some coordinated with Cville Parks and Rec, the Rivanna Conservation Alliance, the Cville Tree Stewards, Sierra Club and the CHS environmental club. These funds would be used to help initiate, coordinate and supervise this year long program along with small stipends for the teens.

How will this help our community? Green Team members, who have become interested and excited about the environment and climate change will have ongoing opportunities to design and work on green neighborhood projects and hopefully become future advocates for a greener Charlottesville.

**Annual Budget:** The 2023 ReLeaf annual budget was \$102,605. The 2024 ReLeaf Budget is \$293,017. The significant increase reflects a large 3-year grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry to begin a new Tree Preservation Program, as well as a plan to hire ReLeaf's

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** 76% spent on trees; 5% spent on Green Team (mostly stipends); 17% on operating costs, i.e. printing, software, technology support; 0% on personnel (volunteers contributed over 800 hours of service; In-kind services contributed \$10,518 to the program.

**Major sources of Funding:** 7% Individual donors; 26% foundation grants; 5% services provided; 38% Virginia Department of Forestry; 15% carry-over

## Sponsor Endorsements

**Sponsor Name:** Ellie Syverud

**Role/relationship with organization:** Financial supporter



**Why I support this organization:** ReLeaf Cville is the only organization in our community that is focused on supporting the Cville tree canopy particularly in low income/low tree canopy neighborhoods. Their work consists of hands-on planting as well as educating families - especially teens - regarding the importance of trees and how they can advocate for a greener environment.

**Sponsor Name:** Kim Grover

**Role/relationship with organization:** supporter

**Why I support this organization:** I believe in ReLeaf's mission as a social justice and environmental organization. Their mission to plant trees improves the beauty of neighborhoods and the health of its residents.



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**RISE Foundation**

#WeLiveAnotherDay2RISE

**Organization Contact:** RISE Foundation

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** The mission, programs and services of RISE Foundation is to support young people PreK through high school. Focusing on school, building self-confidence, and mapping out a plan for their futures will prevent early drug usage, teen pregnancies, early detention homes and eventually prison. The earlier we can get these children into programs like RISE, the better our community will be. Students participate from Charlottesville, Crozet, throughout the Valley to Harrisonburg.

Every student can learn and it's up to us to help them figure out how they learn best.

The RISE Foundation mission is to give voice and hope back to the Black community. Our vision is to touch every part of their lives through youth programming and education, Training adults for business ownership or corporate America. Our vision is to deal with the holistic needs of the Black community through our community outreach initiatives. The All-Black Library will be a staple of the community and strive to show Black Excellence and the culture and diverse history of Black community to the community at large.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** Our first RISE scholar to graduate high school and get accepted to 11 schools all with scholarship money!!!!!!!!!!

Every one of our scholars who started with us in preK or K that are now in 3rd grade are ALL reading on a 4th and 5th grade reading level!!!!

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** The money will go towards the expenses of building the enrichment program and educational testing required for our scholars' learning disabilities to be identified. Without funding, we will not be able to provide these necessary services. Black students are often overlooked as behavior issues or overactive needing medication. The proper learning disability is diagnosed way too late or not at all.

The learning environment and welcoming meeting spaces that we have for the community is expensive. Overhead of the rent has to be paid even if we don't have a program going on. Every dime that comes in goes right back out. Our scholars and community need this safe space.

**Annual Budget:** \$100,000

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** Overhead 30%, Direct Services 30%, personnel 20% scholarships 20%

**Major sources of Funding:** Grants 60% Individual donors 30% and programming \$10%

## **Sponsor Endorsements**

**Sponsor Name:** Debby Norton

**Role/relationship with organization:** I have attended the RISE book club and support their work.

**Why I support this organization:** RISE does important work for students in the black community. The mission, programs and services of RISE Foundation is to support young people PreK through high school. Focusing on school, building self-confidence, and mapping out a plan for their futures will prevent early drug usage, teen pregnancies, early detention homes and eventually prison. The earlier we can get these children into programs like RISE, the better our community will be. Students participate from Charlottesville, Crozet, throughout the Valley to Harrisonburg.

**Sponsor Name:** Jen Lucas

**Role/relationship with organization:** Volunteer, monthly donor, and participant in community events

**Why I support this organization:** The work that RISE does for our community is powerful, with a significant impact on people's lives that creates a real ripple effect within the Black community and beyond. It is so exciting to see how the RISE scholars are consistently reading above grade level and that the oldest did SO WELL with college acceptances and scholarships! The confidence that these scholars have now is important for community wellbeing. I LOVE RISE!



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**Rivanna Conservation Alliance**

RCA is a small organization making a big impact on the health of our watershed.

**Organization Contact:** Sophie Elliott, Operations Coordinator

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** The Rivanna Conservation Alliance (RCA) conserves the Rivanna River and its tributaries through water quality monitoring, restoration, education, and advocacy. RCA engages around 1,000 community volunteers each year in activities designed to monitor the condition of our waterways, promote environmental stewardship, increase understanding and appreciation of our watershed's natural environment, and improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Volunteer activities include state-certified water quality monitoring, stream cleanups, hands-on educational programs for all ages, tree plantings, invasive plant removal workdays, and more.

One unique service that RCA provides for the community is to collect and widely share important information about E. coli bacteria levels in the streams and rivers where people swim, paddle, and play. When E. coli levels are too high, swimming or wading in the water is considered unsafe. RCA's bacteria monitoring program measures E. coli levels in 20 locations in the Rivanna River watershed on a monthly basis. In the summer, RCA's monitoring volunteers also collect samples weekly from swimming areas along the Rivanna River at Darden Towe Park, Riverview Park, and the Palmyra boat launch. RCA shares this information every Friday through three websites and at information kiosks at river access areas. In addition to protecting the community's health, RCA's bacteria monitoring program also helps identify pollution sources, like broken sewer lines, so they can be addressed quickly.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** Spring Watershed Education Field Trips:

In spring of 2023, RCA took on a big challenge – quadrupling the number of schools and students participating in our experiential watershed education program. RCA now reaches every 6th grade student from Albemarle County Public Schools (approximately 1,000 students) and every 7th grader from the City of Charlottesville's Buford Middle School (approximately 200 students). RCA staff worked hard to secure the funding, materials, and equipment needed, and to hire seasonal environmental educators. We also recruited and trained more than 30 community education volunteers to help keep the group sizes small and engagement high. With their help, RCA led fourteen days of field trips at six different streams throughout the watershed. During the field trips, students got in the streams with waders and nets to collect

and identify benthic macroinvertebrates (small stream organisms that are indicators of stream health). They also tested physical and chemical water quality parameters, and they played a tag game called “Macroinvertebrate Mayhem” that demonstrates how stream stressors affect ecosystem health and biodiversity.

For many of the students, spending time in nature and in and around streams was a new experience. We witnessed many students’ level of interest and comfort in nature grow and countless “aha” moments as students connected concepts they had learned about in class to the real environment.

Rivanna River Forest Health and Resilience Project:

Last year, RCA was awarded a large, federal grant for a new, collaborative effort called the Rivanna River Forest Health and Resilience Project. RCA is leading the project, which aims to improve forest health along the five-mile urban corridor of the Rivanna River. The project is engaging dozens of trained volunteers to collect data on native and invasive plants in the forested areas of Darden Towe Park, Pen Park, and Riverview Park. RCA and our extensive network of project partners will use these data to identify the highest priority areas for invasive plant management and tree planting. The project will then support this work in the highest priority locations.

RCA and project partners will also survey private property owners to determine what information and support they need to improve forest health on their land. The project will help protect our community’s important natural areas, in turn improving water quality, wildlife habitat, and our ability to enjoy and benefit from these public parks.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** RCA, despite its small size and limited resources, does substantial work in our community. We rely heavily on grants and the generosity of our donors, which can be unpredictable and fluctuate from year to year. This uncertainty makes it challenging to attract and retain the staff needed to grow and take on larger and more impactful projects. If RCA is chosen for a monthly collection, the funds we receive will help address this challenge.

Funds from a monthly collection would also enable RCA to organize and lead more volunteer workdays for stream cleanups; native tree, shrub, and wildflower plantings; invasive plant removals; and more.

**Annual Budget:** \$375,314

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** In 2023, RCA directed 84% of our funding to direct program expenses (for monitoring, conservation, stewardship, and education); 10% to general operations; and 6% to fundraising. Our overhead rate was 16%. In 2023, RCA’s budget was allocated to the following expense categories: Wages: 63% Program and volunteer supplies: 9% Subcontracts: 7% Office expenses: 7% Fees and services: 6% Benefits: 6% Professional services: 1% Travel: 1%

**Major sources of Funding:** Foundations: 31% Individual donations: 22% Local Governments: 19% Nonprofits: 10% Corporations: 8% Contracts: 5% Other/Events: 5%

## Sponsor Endorsements

**Sponsor Name:** Ellie Syverud

**Role/relationship with organization:** Financial supporter/volunteer

**Why I support this organization:** RCA is the only local organization focused on enhancing the health of our waterways. They provide direct service to the community as well as reaching out to all the local schools to teach young people about the importance of our environment.

**Sponsor Name:** Kim Grover

**Role/relationship with organization:** supporter

**Why I support this organization:** The RCA is constantly doing work to keep our river clean and healthy. This is important, local, environmental work.



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**Sin Barreras / Without Barriers**

Sin Barreras envisions a society where the essential needs of all its members are met, regardless of immigration status, color, social & economic class, or culture of origin.

**Organization Contact:** Ellie Ransom, Fundraising and Media

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** Sin Barreras or Without Barriers has served greater Charlottesville and Albemarle County since 2012. We empower immigrants and their families in Central Virginia, with a focus on the Latinx population, by educating, advocating and supporting their needs. The people we serve face many systemic barriers which include language, culture, immigration, and more. They are also valuable neighbors and an essential part of our broader community. Our goal is to provide a safe space where people are welcomed and free to ask any question. We support clients with consultations, orientation, guidance, information, and/or referrals. We also provide direct services to help people navigate through immediate and urgent needs in immigration, legal, education, medical, and other situations. We support and empower the community through five program areas:

1. Welcoming and Navigation: As a trusted resource to turn to for urgent needs and information, we provide support, access to resources, and a welcoming space during times of crisis and need.
2. Legal and Immigration: We offer consultations with attorneys and case work with non attorney professionals accredited to help in immigration by the US Department of Justice.
3. Education Programs: We offer English learning, Primary & Secondary Studies, GED Preparation, Leadership, Technology, Citizenship, Driver's Education, workshops and clinics on a variety of topics.
4. Health, Wellness, and Culture: We work with healthcare providers to facilitate a range of medical services and host cultural events, like the Cville Sabroso festival and Cinco de Mayo, celebrating various traditions.

5. Food and Financial Security: We advocate for community needs and partner with other organizations to help people weather periods of financial hardship and food insecurity.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** Sin Barreras already works with UUCville, organizing preschool programming twice a week and with UUCville volunteers offering clients rides and putting up flyers around town about our services.

Three years ago, we entered into an educational partnership with the Mexican Consulate to run the "Plaza Comunitaria" program created by the Mexican National Institute for Adult Education. The program provides a well-developed curriculum for adults who wish to start or complete their primary or secondary education in Spanish. In addition, this partnership allows us to offer the Hispanic community the building blocks and path to a high-school diploma.

One student in particular registered for the Plaza program with the intention of getting her GED. Nervous and shy, she shared that she did not have the opportunity to finish primary school back in her home country. For her, the GED seemed unattainable and a long road ahead. We knew Plaza was the perfect program for her if she had the patience, time, and dedication to go through all the modules needed to complete her primary school and then move on to secondary school.

One by one, she completed and passed her primary school modules with flying colors, then graduated from primary school. Everyone felt her joy and tears on graduation day. Her kids and family were ecstatic and visibly proud. Since then, she has moved on to secondary school and is now taking GED classes. Last May, she completed secondary school and graduated with three other classmates from the Plaza Comunitaria program.

Another great accomplishment for Sin Barreras was leading its region in the statewide movement to gain Driver's License access for all, regardless of immigration status, something we worked on for seven years. It had such a significant impact, and its success can be attributed to the leadership development efforts, as the former students were leaders of this effort and have continued to be leaders in the work of Sin Barreras. Both students stepped up to become UVA Equity Center Fellows in Residence and currently lead the efforts to help other immigrants understand the requirements of the new driving privilege laws and study to pass the test. They volunteer between 10 to 30 hours per month and lead the effort with the support of Sin Barreras.

These volunteers were first clients, then education program participants, then advocacy partners who spoke up for and also supported implementing the new driver's license law. They are now class instructors who were recognized as "philanthropy champions" by the CNE in March 2023. These community leaders are great examples of what we can accomplish through our programs and should continue to develop. They represent the future leaders of Sin Barreras and people that will be able to join the broader community at "a seat at the table" with a more balanced power dynamic and confidence.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** We need funds to adequately manage our growing educational programs that significantly improve the lives of our Hispanic community in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. We haven't been able to secure any city or county funding for this, and, therefore, rely on smaller grants and fundraising to raise funds needed to keep our program afloat. Please invest in our educational programs for instructor stipends, class materials, the purchase of laptops to lend to students, and more. To continue providing our educational services and programs to our Hispanic community, we need to be able to pay staff, rent, and all our operational costs. We had 200 adult students last year, and our numbers continue to grow. We accomplish all this work using unrestricted funds for partially salaried employees and many volunteers.



**Annual Budget:** Sin Barreras' total gross profit in 2023 were \$502,597, with total expenditures being \$476,345. The 2024 budget is estimated between \$400,000 to \$500,000.

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** 38% on payroll, 36% on grant expenses (for educational programming and services), 10% on facilities & contract services, and 16% on other operating expenses.

**Major sources of Funding:** 43% grants, 30% direct public support, 12% fundraising, and 15% in program and service revenue.

## **Sponsor Endorsements**

**Sponsor Name:** Mary Beth Wiley

**Role/relationship with organization:** Volunteer and donor

**Why I support this organization:** This is a very welcoming place for clients, volunteers, and donors. It's a small organization with a big impact.

**Sponsor Name:** Patty Wallens

**Role/relationship with organization:** volunteer

**Why I support this organization:** Sin Barreras focuses on a large and underserved group of people who are our neighbors and coworkers, who are an integral part of our community workforce and who are vulnerable because of political uncertainties and shifts. The organization works to improve lives through direct assistance, through education and through advocacy, all offered with kindness, compassion and skill.



**Application for Social Action Collection**  
**For Program Year: July 2024 to June 2025**

**The BUCK Squad**

Guns Down for Charlottesville

**Organization Contact:** Tommy Everett

**In two paragraphs, please tell us what your organization does in our community:** The BUCK Squad strives to reduce the cycle of gun related crimes by implementing a community-led violence-intervention program that provides crisis management assistance through conflict meditation, mentorship, and economic development. TBS implements this strategy currently through proactive civilian patrols within predominantly black communities with low-income households, in Charlottesville.

**Briefly tell us about two accomplishments from last year of which you are proud:** TBS entered into a partnership with Pathways & Pipeline, an employment arm of UVA. We were able to refer 20+ high risk individuals to this program that may have resulted in reduced gun violence and/or recidivism.

TBS has established a presence in all of the high gun crime areas of the City, South First Street, Prospect Avenue, Westhaven/Hardy Drive, Friendship Court, the UVA Corner and the Downtown Mall in addition to a presence in the County in the 29 corridor between Hydraulic and Rio Roads.

**In two paragraphs, if you are chosen for a monthly collection, how will it help?** It costs between \$450,000 and \$500,000 to run each site, almost exclusively labor for these employees who risk their lives to try to stop gun violence. We recently were awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Vibrant Community Fund and have applied for a number of other grants. These funds will help us pay the members of TBS a fair wage.

Additionally, since the vast majority of these employees are ex-offenders, TBS is employing a difficult demographic to employ and helping reduce recidivism.

**Annual Budget:** \$480,000

**Breakdown of where funding is spent:** 93% personnel 7% administrative

**Major sources of Funding:** Grants from City and State and private donations

## Sponsor Endorsements

**Sponsor Name:** Kate Fraleigh

**Role/relationship with organization:** I follow their activities and successes. I know a few of the people on the Board. I contribute to them individually and through the social action collection.

**Why I support this organization:** I am a firm believer in the success of "Cure Violence" programs. They are successful in preventing violent crime, in building community relationships, and in demonstrating how to solve disputes without physical harm. Their work prevents physical and emotional harm and connection to the inequitable criminal legal system. The BUCK Squad has prevented 250 violent crimes since its inception.

**Sponsor Name:** Edith Good

**Role/relationship with organization:** My relationship with BUCK Squad has evolved from when, in 1999, I heard some of Herb Dickerson's morale-boosting talks to graduates of Drug Court. He had been to prison and knows what coming out in poverty can be like. He attended some Believers & Achieve

**Why I support this organization:** The shootings have to stop. However, unless helpful loved ones appear, people leaving prison have all cards stacked against them. Many suffer from PTSD from abuse. There are no food stamps, no public housing, rare job opportunities, erratic or non-existent transportation, and the search for food and shelter can lead to desperation. Imagine being freed from prison only to enter a life of improbable success that can slide into homelessness and depression. The best way to stop the shootings is through empathy and real support. The back-story of Herb and his friends, and their training in skills needed to lower pressure and curtail impending blow-ups, enables them to get down with potential criminals. To be freed from incarceration only to die in the street is no one's goal.