

African Cultural Services, Inc.

African Cultural Services is seeking support for a *Food Pantry Distribution and Outreach* program - for the purchase of culturally sensitive foods & grocery store gift cards.

Amount awarded: \$4,250

Project Director: Juliet Najjumba

Sponsor: Susan Weddig

The Food Pantry consists of distributions to Africano families and to supplement this with culturally sensitive foods that provide a “taste of home” such as matoke (African plantain), cassava, tilapia, ground nuts, and maize. These specialty items are quite expensive but bring joy to families. During the pandemic, food deliveries were going to 40 families - this has grown to 80-100 families who come regularly seeking food assistance.

The Cat Rescue (dba) The Cat Connection

The Cat Rescue program is seeking funds for a ‘Spray and Neuter Assistance Program’ targeting, but not limited to Waltham residents. The focus will be on low-income individuals, immigrants and people affected by the fallout from the pandemic.

Amount awarded: \$2,000

Project Director: Elisif Brandon

Church Sponsor:: Martha Gallagher

Many people get pets without considering the associated medical costs. Spay and neuter costs alone easily run into the hundreds of dollars. Because of this, people either decide to forgo the procedure or look for low-cost options. The action plan tries to reach these pet owners and provide the encouragement, motivation and means to neuter their pets - this includes costs for rabies & distemper vaccinations.

Chaplains on the Way

Chaplains on the Way seeks funding to expand chaplaincy services during the Breakfast Program, as well as provide food supplies.

Amount awarded: \$3,800

Project Director: Jill Gaulding

Church Sponsor: Leslie Gildersleeve

COTW breakfast and chaplaincy program serves the unhoused population of Waltham in Whitcome Hall (at First Parish). This is the only indoor space available in the city during

morning hours - Waltham shelters are closed and the Day Center has not yet opened. Participants receive hot meals, and can take part in daily spiritual gatherings, or simply relax - take a nap, use the bathroom. The program provides a safe and welcoming space.

Chesterbrook Community Foundation

Seeking funds for a “Community Day” - end of school year celebration.

Amount Awarded: \$700

Project Director: John Casassa

Sponsor: Pam Penton

The “Community Day” is a yearly celebration at the end of the school year for the Chesterbrook Learning Center in the Chesterbrook Housing Development in Waltham. This project is an opportunity to celebrate each student’s educational achievements and their love for learning, with food, ice cream and games.

Community Day Center

Funding for multiple services provided by the Case Manager’s Helping Hands Fund.

Amount Awarded: \$2,500

Project Director: Carolyn Montallo

Sponsor: Roberta Waltz Trudeau

The Case Manager’s Helping Hands Fund will focus on **1)** providing transportation to homeless individuals who A) request immediate help for their addiction and need transportation to detox facilities and long-term rehabilitation/recovery centers; B) request transportation to medical/dental facilities based on health concerns; C) request transportation to job interviews; **2)** require IDs and birth certificates for employment and/or housing opportunities; and **3)** need money to support a housing move-in.

Food Link

Funding is requested for coordination and distribution of the ongoing food donation program, including food storage costs.

Amount Awarded: \$3,400

Project Director: Rachel Albert

Sponsor: Donna VanderClock

Food Link provides a ‘food rescue program’ that is facilitated by a team of six core program staff and over 250 regular volunteers. Food Link staff and volunteers make great efforts to get to know the partner agencies in order to curate deliveries that meet the needs of the populations they serve (as in Waltham) – taking into account factors such as age, ethnicity, and dietary preferences. Food Link distributes food with dignity, respecting the preferences of the individuals and families facing food insecurity.

Healthy Waltham

Funding is being requested to maintain and expand the Healthy Waltham Food Pantry which provides food at no cost to residents of Waltham.

Amount awarded: \$4700

Program director: Myriam Michel

Church Sponsor: Muffy Young

Healthy Waltham is planning to expand its services for reducing food insecurity in the Waltham region by expanding its pantry, and the population it serves. With over 750 families served, Healthy Waltham seeks to provide fresh, healthy foods in its efforts to address food insecurity. This year’s proposal includes providing gift cards, and procuring equipment for the pantry.

Joyful Voices of Inspiration, Inc

Requesting funds to perform at fundraising activities for select non-profit organizations.

Amount Awarded: \$550

Program director: R.L. Smith

Church sponsor: Katie Gullotti

Joyful Voices of Inspiration Inc. (JVOI) is a musical ensemble. JVOI seeks to provide music for an organization with a fundraising need. They will arrange and perform a concert at no cost to the organization, so that all proceedings go to the non-profit group.

Opportunities for Inclusion

Requesting funds to continue, and to expand a volunteer placement program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Amount Awarded: \$1000

Program director: Joanne Raymond

Church sponsor: Jonathan Taylor

With this ongoing program, Opportunities for Inclusion provides volunteering placements to individuals who are often sidelined in society. This program brings a sense of purpose, hope, and great learning, both for the volunteers and the organizations involved. The funds help with supervision, transportation and other necessities that make volunteering by individuals with intellectual and/or developmental difficulties a reality.

Waltham Boys and Girls Club

Requesting funds for 'Juneteenth Waltham' to be held June 19th on the Waltham Commons - a celebration and a day of learning.

Amount Awarded: \$2500
Project Director: Erica Young
Sponsor: Sue Genser

Juneteenth commemorates an effective end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth (short for 'June Nineteenth') marks the day when federal troops entered Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people (over 250,000 in Texas) be free.

This one day, free event will feature music, speeches, poetry, dance, information booths, and food samples

Waltham Show Choir

Funding requested is for the Waltham High School Music Unlimited Show Choir - a group of over 100 students who perform in competition and to community organizations within Waltham.

Amount Awarded: \$2,250
Project Director: Alyssa Cincotta
Sponsor: Sponsor: Rachel Learned

Waltham High School's Music Unlimited Show Choir is among the premier performing groups in the community. Show Choir prides itself on having a diverse group of talented teens from all backgrounds in Waltham. There is no charge, or any fees to join - the only requirement is an audition and a personal commitment.. Over the course of a typical year, shows are performed for the middle schools, high school pep rally, community centers, city celebrations, special needs homes, and nursing homes. A performance at First Parish will also be arranged.

Waltham Farmers Market

Funding is requested to help The Farmers Market promote health, nutrition and personal dignity

in our community.

Amount Awarded: \$4,000
Project Director: Martha Creedon
Sponsor: Dan Taylor

There has been an increase of dollars spent and in the volume of people coming to the market each season. By offering matching funds to SNAP/EBT recipients (a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$10 per customer per week) the market can continue to provide healthy, locally grown food for the Waltham community. (as well as support our local farmers)

Waltham Open Studios

Funding requested for the annual Open Studios fall weekend in Waltham where artists ‘open up’ their studios to the public.

Amount awarded: \$1000
Program director: Andrea Tishman
Church Sponsor: Joel Weddig

Waltham Open Studios provides an annual program event in the fall featuring a weekend of “Open Studios”, where artists can exhibit their work. There is a continued effort to incorporate translations in Spanish. (and other languages spoken) Art Making Workshops with Ann Miller will be offered.

Downtown Waltham Partnership - Steampunk Festival

Requesting funds for the one-day springtime event in downtown Waltham. Steampunk began as a science fiction sub-genre with heavy emphasis on Victorian-era clothing and technology. (ie. steam power!)

Amount Awarded: \$850
Program director: Melissa Honig
Church sponsor: Alice Taylor

The Watch City Steampunk Festival is a one-day public event that uses the theme of "steampunk" to explore music, art, fashion, and technology. The festival has been a part of Waltham since 2010 and has attracted thousands of people to the downtown.

Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra

Requesting funds for the ongoing programming of the Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra - an organization of accomplished unpaid amateur musicians.

Amount Awarded: \$1,500

Program director: Haig Iskenderian

Church sponsor: Marianne Cutter

The Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra commits to a Community Outreach Program, an ongoing program that has three facets:

1. To provide free admission for students to WPO concerts so that they may experience and enjoy classical music.
2. To support the orchestra's concerts featuring a winner of the Student Concerto Competition.
3. To support free chamber music performances in the Waltham area, including First Parish Church on Sunday June 4th.