Meeting the Moment

Improving the quality of life in the communities we serve through impactful, strategic philanthropy
Meeting the Moment of 2020

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in early 2020, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation saw that our most vulnerable neighbors were in trouble. We did what we do best – we helped our community. To meet the moment, GLCF established the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to support low-income and marginalized people in our region who faced incredibly complex challenges.

Our community rallied to support this fund and help out neighbors in need. One of the more memorable donations included a note from a family in Westford who donated the proceeds from their neighborhood yard sale “to help families or individuals who have suffered from the COVID outbreak.” Others shared notes of encouragement: “These are moments when we all need to pull together.” We read every word and shared them with the team - it kept us going and challenged us to do even more.

Additionally, we saw our nonprofit partners step up in countless ways during the pandemic. Within this annual report, we have highlighted some of their work. The innovative ways our nonprofit partners pivoted within an ever-changing environment to continue serving others was so inspiring.

In 2020, through grants from its GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund and the Massachusetts COVID Relief Fund, the foundation has supported 105 local nonprofit organizations with more than 190 grants totaling over $2.9 million. Grants funding was distributed to all 20 GLCF communities served.

Our team of six is so proud to live in this community. We are so much stronger together.

Thank you for your support.

Jay Linnehan
President and CEO

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Facebook www.facebook.com/GLCFoundation
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Design and Layout: Jennifer Aradhya
Cover, town and food pantry photos (8 + 15): Kevin Harkins
2020 GLCF Stories: Kathy Register
All other photos are courtesy of nonprofit/community partners.
Established in 1997, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) is a philanthropic organization comprised of more than 390 funds dedicated to improving the quality of life in 20 neighboring cities and towns. With financial assets of more than $50 million, GLCF annually awards grants and scholarships to hundreds of worthy nonprofits and students. The generosity of our donors has enabled the Community Foundation to award more than $25 million to the Greater Lowell community.

- $6,609,560 gifts received from donors
- $4,436,213 million distributed to 269 nonprofits
- $557,129 in scholarships were awarded to 277 students from 404 Scholarships
- 389 endowed funds
- $50,953,660 million total assets

**OUR MISSION**
To foster community growth and development through funding, leadership, and collaboration to transform the lives of the individuals and organizations we serve

**OUR VISION**
Improving the quality of life in Greater Lowell through impactful, strategic philanthropy

**2020 GRANT DISTRIBUTIONS**
The year 2020 presented a host of challenges for nonprofits in our community. Fortunately, beyond GLCF COVID-19 funding, the 2020 grantmaking total of more than $2 million was distributed to support Greater Lowell nonprofits.

- Education 23%
- Health 5%
- Human Services 27%
- Community and Economic Development 11%
- Arts and Culture 12%
- Other 5%

**Scholarships 17%**

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**CMAA**

**Minute Man Arc**

**Clear Path for Veterans NE**
Community Partners Come to Aid of Seniors Facing Food Insecurity

In the spring of 2020, as COVID-19 began infecting older adults in high numbers, nonprofit agencies providing support to this demographic -- like Minuteman Senior Services (MSS) and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley & North Shore (ESMV-NS) -- were hit hard by another jolt: Most of the volunteers they depended on to distribute meals to their senior clients were seniors themselves.

"Before COVID we had robust Meals on Wheels programs, as well as popular ‘congregate meal’ programs, which allowed people to eat together at their local senior centers," explained Patti Dubielak, Director of Marketing & Development at MSS, which serves 16 towns, including Bedford, Burlington, Carlisle, Concord, Littleton and Wilmington.

"Once the pandemic hit in March, all our programs were impacted,” said Dubielak. “Plus, we lost about 60 percent of our volunteers because they were from high-risk groups, too.”

Compounding the situation is the fact that food insecurity among older people continues to grow, added Jennifer Raymond, Chief Strategy Officer of ESMV-NS, which serves seniors in 28 communities, including Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tynsgboro and Westford.

“Hunger among seniors is not new, but COVID has shined a light on the problem in a much more visible way,” said Raymond. “We’ve seen a 30- to 35-percent increase in the numbers we are feeding.”

Realizing these unforeseen forces were having a profound impact on elder health, last spring and summer GLCF distributed two COVID-19 Relief Fund Grants each to MSS and ESMV-NS, two nonprofits that support seniors in 14 of the 20 communities in the foundation's service area.

The spring and summer grants were distributed by GLCF from the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund. Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund supported those across the state most impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis, focused on essential frontline workers and vulnerable populations including the homeless, immigrant populations, people with disabilities, and those facing food insecurity. The fund worked in concert with regional community foundations and nonprofit leaders who partner with local leaders.
Focus On: **Westford**

GLCF provided grant funding to **Westford CAT** to purchase PPE supplies for staff members. Masks, gloves, hand sanitizer were made readily available for anyone entering the station. Additionally, cleaning supplies were purchased for office sanitizing.

As producers returned to record programs, equipment was purchased with the grant for better recording through Zoom (encouraging more virtual involvement) as well as mobile recording equipment to use “in the field.”

And in November, GLCF continued addressing food insecurity among seniors by awarding another round of grants to both nonprofits from the foundation’s own COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.

“Food insecurity was a major focus of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund, and we realized elder-food insecurity was a growing concern,” said Jennifer Aradhya, GLCF Vice President of Marketing & Programs.

“Communicating with local Councils on Aging gave us a solid understanding of the situation, as well as a strategy for a funding solution that would have the most impact. Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley & North Shore, and Minuteman Senior Services support more than 1,000 food-insecure seniors in 14 of our communities. Partnering with these two nonprofits made perfect sense.”

Once the pandemic lockdown began, both nonprofits had to quickly shift staff to work remotely, as well as (virtually) train a new crop of younger volunteers. With funding assistance from GLCF, group meals at senior centers were converted to “grab and go” sites, which allowed seniors to pick up meals and safely eat them at home. Both organizations adopted new “contactless” delivery protocols for their Meals on Wheels programs, and made other innovations.

“Grant funding from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation is helping us keep older adults safely in their homes during the pandemic,” said Kelly Magee Wright, Executive Director of Minuteman Senior Services. “In addition to our daily Meals on Wheels delivery of a hot lunch, we are also delivering seven-day frozen meals packs, and grocery-store gift cards to seniors at risk of food insecurity.”

ESMV-NS is also using some of its GLCF funding to pilot a food shopping/delivery program for at-risk seniors, according to Raymond. “We learned that some consumers had additional nutritional needs beyond what could be addressed through standard Meals on Wheels,” she explained.

“This funding from GLCF allowed us to launch and continue a grocery store shopping-and-delivery program for people who are facing food insecurity, but may not have the transportation or other resources to shop for the special dietary items they need,” she said.

“Our seniors are especially vulnerable to serious complications from the COVID-19 virus, and is seeing food insecurity at much higher numbers,” said Jay Linnehan, GLCF President & CEO. “These nonprofit partners have been very diligent and innovative in their approach to continuing services to Greater Lowell elders, while adapting to new safety rules. We are so grateful to them.”
2020 Business & Organization Donors

A Brush with History, Inc.
AB Breakfast Group
Able To Serve-New England, Inc.
Acre Family Child Care
Acton Police Association
Align Credit Union
All Sports Heroes
Alpha Omega Sorority
Alumni Chorus of Lowell High School
Angkor Management Group, Inc.
Aubert J. Fay Charitable Fund
Autodesk Foundation
AlvisoPro, LLC
Bamboo Construction
Barr Foundation
Base Camp Yoga
Battles Foundation, Inc.
beWell Organic Medicine, Inc.
Bill Stephens Automotive, Inc.
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation
Both Honda
Bosivet Fund
Boston Foundation
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell
Brett Tully Scholarship Fund
BRM Production Management
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, PC
Budget Buddies Inc.
Burlington Girl Scout Troop 85417
Butler Monument Fund
C4 Innovations
Cambodian American Literary Arts
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell, Inc.
Carbonneau Insulation, LLC
Carter Dalton Quinn Charitable Trust
Center for Hope and Healing, Inc.
Cercle Jeanne Mance
Challenge Unlimited, Inc. at Ironstone Farm
Charlotte and Michel LaPierre Char. Fund
Chelmsford Business Association, Inc.
Chelmsford Community Fund
Chelmsford Pediatrics
Choiate, Hall & Stewart, LLP
Circle Health
Citrin Cooperman & Company, LLP
City of Lowell Women’s Golf Tourn., Inc.
Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc.
Coalition for a Better Acre
Commemorative Photos, Inc.
Communities for Restorative Justice
Community Family, Inc.
Community Teamwork, Inc.
Congregation Beth Israel of the MV Corporation for the Celebration of Jack Kerouac in Lowell
Cove Hill Partners
Cox Fuel Co., Inc.
Craft Hot Sauce, LLC
Cummings Foundation, Inc.
Dalby Holding Company, Inc.
David E. Tully & Associates, PA
Dawa, Inc.
DCU - Digital Federal Credit Union
Delnor/Riley Fund
Delta Sales of Amherst, Inc.
Deluxe Corporation Foundation
Matching Gifts Program
Demoulas Foundation
Deschesnes Family Trust
Discovery Museum Inc.
Donahue Family Fund
Dow Realty Group, LLC
Dr. An Wang Middle School
Duchesne One Family Trust
Duke Family Fund
D’Youville Life & Wellness Community Foundation, Inc.
Eagle Claw Management, LLC
Eastern Bank Foundation
Eastern Salt Company, Inc.
Edge Group, Inc.
Edward J. Babigan Scholarship
Elevate New England, Inc.
Empire Regency Hospitality, LLC
Enterprise Bank
Entrepreneurship for All
Essex County Community Foundation
Evans on the Common
Facebook Bingo Players
Faith Home, Inc
Family Dental Care of Milford, Prof. Assn.
Fidelity Foundation
Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund
Foundation M
Foundation Management & Pro Productions
Fournier Plumbing and Heating
Francine & Ethan Royce Fund
Francis Provencher Insurance Agency, Inc.
Franciscan Sisters of Allegany
Franco - American Day Committee
Gallagher & Cavanaugh, LLP
GarMark Partners
Greater Lowell Bar Association
Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Greater Lowell Health Alliance
Groton-Pepperell Rotary Club
Haartz Corporation
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell
Henry and Winifred Lyons Foundation
Heritage Farm Ice Cream
Heritage Hill Shave Co., LLC
Hidden Battles Fund
Incompass Human Services
Intuit Payment Solutions
J.C. Gendreau Electric, LLC
James F. O’Donnell & Sons
Jamesco Development Inc.
Jaque Home Care Inc.
Jeanne D’Arc Credit Union
JNB & Associates
Joncas Associates
Joseph P. Donahue Charitable Foundation
Trust
JSR Strategies, LLC
Juniper Networks Foundation Fund
Kertcliffe Foundation
Kishan Realty, LLC
Laborers’ International Union of N. America
Local # 429
Law Office of Daniel J. Mansur
Law Offices of Claude B. Lavallée, Esq.
Leaders in Lowell
LHS Class of 1957
Life Connection Center, Inc.
Lowell Association for the Blind
Lowell Central Electric Co., Inc.
Lowell Community Health Center
Lowell Development & Financial Corporation
Lowell Festival Foundation
Lowell Firefighters Golf Association
Lowell Five
Lowell General Hospital
Lowell High School
Lowell Housing Authority
Lowell National Historical Park
Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust
Lowell Plan, Inc.
Lowell Police Superior Officers Association
Lowell Sun Charities, Inc.
Lowell Women’s Week
LowellNOW
Luz Granite Corp
Magic Wireless
Mahoney Oil Co.
Make a Difference Fund
Management Process Support
Marc Chandonnet Plumbing & Heating, LLC
Mark G. Gilchrist MD, LLC
Mary E. Harrington Memorial Fund
Massachusetts Cultural Council
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
Massachusetts Charitable Foundation
Massachusetts Community Foundation
Middlesex Community College Foundation
Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation
Millipore Sigma Match Grants
Mill City Medical Group LTD
Minute Man Arc for Human Services, Inc.
Minuteman Senior Services
Murphy Construction
N.E. Heritage Properties, Inc.
NETSCOUT SYSTEMS, INC.
Network for Good
New England Medical Insurance Agency, LLC
NextStep Nonprofit, LLC
Non-Profit Alliance of Greater Lowell
Northstar Corporation Foundation
Ogonowski New Farm Families Endow. Fund
Omircon PI Alumni
One Can Help
Open Pantry of Greater Lowell
Owl Diner Charities, Inc.
Pampered Chef
Passe temps Club
Paypal Charitable Giving Fund
Performing Art Collective, Inc.
Peter S. Stamas Fund for the GLCF
Phillips Academy
PrideSTAR EMS, Inc.
Protiviti
Red Hat
RENO Properties, LLC
Retired Public Employees Committee for Political Action
Richard K. and Nancy L. Donahue Charitable Foundation
Rotary Club of Dracut
Rotary Club of Lowell
Rotary Club of Acton-Boxborough
S. Levesque Corp.
Salem Five
Salesforce.com, Inc.
SecurityTrails
Shuley Nakamura Charitable Foundation
SIF Charitable Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Sisters of Charity of Quebec
Smith’s Barber Shop
Sompal, Inc./Store 38
South Middlesex Opportunity Council
Stagnone Family Charitable Fund
Studio 26 Associates
Sullivan Middle School PTO
Swimming with a Mission, Inc.
Tewksbury Firefighters Local 1647
Theodore Edson Parker Foundation
Thibault Foundation
Trinity E.M.S., Inc.
TVI Inc.
U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management
UMass Lowell
Union Sales Presentation Coaching, LLC
Up With Books, Inc.
UTEC, Inc.
Votze Butler Charitable
Walker’s Gymnastics and Dance, Inc.
Washington Savings Bank
Welcoming America
Western Avenue Studios BV Lowell, LLC
Westford Community Fund
WmCompanie,
Wisdom Collective
Women Accelerators
Women Working Wonders Fund
Woody's Auto Repair & Towing, Inc.
Worldcom Exchange, Inc.
Wormtown Brewery
We appreciate and acknowledge our founding foundations: The Theodore Edson Parker Foundation (Moses Greeley Parker and Mary Greeley Parker Morrison Foundation), Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust Fund, and Massachusetts Environmental Trust for their initial and continued support.

### 2020 Statement of Financial Position

**ASSETS**
- Cash and investments $50,880,856
- Unconditional promise to give $61,091
- Other assets - net $11,713

Total assets $50,953,660

**LIABILITIES**
- Accounts payable/accrued expenses $71,522
- Grants payable $57,355
- Charitable gift annuities $1,897
- Fiscal agent and agency endowment funds $6,705,012

Total liabilities $6,835,786

**NET ASSETS**
- Total net assets $44,117,874
- Total liabilities and net assets $50,953,660

### 2020 Statement of Activities

**SUPPORT AND REVENUE**
- Contributions, grants and gifts $2,994,972
- COVID-19 contributions $3,048,557
- Investment Income $6,222,850
- Donated goods and services and Other $97,961

Total support and revenue $12,364,340

**EXPENSES**
- Program Services $5,266,045
- Fundraising $235,027
- General and administrative $206,778

Total expenses $5,707,850

Total Change In Net Assets $6,656,490

Net Assets At Beginning of Year $37,461,460

Net Assets At End of Year $44,117,950

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

The goal of the Foundation’s investment program is to preserve and enhance the value of donor gifts, maintain capital for the future, and meet community needs today. To accomplish this goal, we sustain a diversified portfolio overseen by multiple managers.

### GLCF Endowed Funds Return (through 12/31/20)
- 1 Yr. +17.95%
- 3 Yr. +11.74%
- 5 Yr. +11.91%
GLCF COVID-19 response

Due to the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable populations in our community, GLCF opened the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund on March 13 to support the unanticipated needs of area nonprofits.

The Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund supported those across the state most impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis. GLCF is grateful for the fund’s generous support of Greater Lowell nonprofits.

150+ donors generously supported GLCF’s COVID-19 Response Fund

150+ grants distributed to local nonprofits from GLCF’s COVID-19 Fund

100+ nonprofits received funding from GLCF’s COVID-19 Response Fund

$2.9 million in grants distributed from GLCF’s COVID-19 Response Fund

2020 RESPONSE PHASES

Phase 1: Preparedness/Prevention
Small grants for PPE, Essential Supplies

Phase 2: Strategic Response
Larger grants for food insecurity, housing insecurity, technology, etc.

GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Grants were distributed to all 20 GLCF communities served
2020 COVID-19 GRANTS

Since March, through grants from the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund and the Massachusetts COVID Relief Fund, the foundation has supported more than 100 local nonprofit organizations with grants totaling over $2.9 million.

- Food Insecurity 39%
- Education & Technology 8%
- Social Emotional 2%
- PPE/Sanitation 9%
- Housing Insecurity 25%
- Staff & Hazard Pay 10%
- Other 7%

GLCF’s 2020 COVID-19 Donors

GLCF would like to thank the following donors to the fund for their generosity and solidarity.

Able To Serve - New England, Inc
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Abrams
Ms. Jan Aceti
George & Kathy Allen
Alpha Omega Sorority
Mr. Howard Amidon and Ms. Lisa Tellekson
Ms. Jennifer M. Aradhya
The Armstrong Family
Ms. Leeann Atkinson
Mary J. Bacigalupo Community Fund
Barr Foundation
Mr. Kenneth Bassett
Blackbaud Giving Fund - Autodesk Foundation
Ms. Jill Block
Mr. Trevor Bloom
The Blount Family
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation
Boisvert Fund
Ms. Meg A. Bond
The Bromark Family Foundation
Ms. Carolyn Brooks
Mr. Bruce Brown
Ms. Nancy Jean Bump
Ms. Phyllis M. Carr
Chelmsford Community Fund
John and Linda Chemaly
Lynn and Peter Cina
Hilary and David Clark
Ms. Patricia L. Coffey
Mr. Michael Collins
Congregation Beth Israel of the Merrimack Valley
Ms. Deirdre Connolly
Cove Hill Partners
Cummings Foundation, Inc.
Ms. Heather Curtis
Ms. Madeline Dahlin
Ms. Joanne Doherty
Mrs. Nancy L. Donahue
Ms. Barbara N. Dunsford
Eastern Bank Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. David Emmerich
Enterprise Bank
Jane and Lance Eskelund
Ms. Barbara Estabrook
Faith Home, Inc
Fidelity Foundation
Susan Fordella Williams
Foundation M
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Frantz
Gallahger & Cavanaugh, LLP
Mr. Joe Gangi
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond H. Gatti
Mr. Robert R. Gilman
Ms. Vera Grbic
Ms. Grace Katherine Greenough
Haartz Corporation
Mr. William D. Haddad
Ms. Stacie Hargis
Mrs. Elizabeth Gail Hayden
Mrs. Christine Heaton Brown
Ms. Ellen E. Hertzmark
Ms. Rachel T. Hervieux
Warren and Judith Hilton Charitable Fund
Mr. Dana Hirst
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest E. Huber
Mr. Wayne Jenness
Mr. Steven Joncas
Juniper Networks Foundation Fund
Ms. Belinda Juran
Kishan Realty LLC
Ms. Cynthia Jean Koch
Ms. Jessica Lander
Leaders in Lowell
Mr. Charles Lehman
Jay and Patti Linnehan Charitable
Mr. Henry E. Lohmer
Ms. Mary H. Lorenz
Lowell Five
Lowell Sun Charities, Inc.
Ms. Mary A. Mahaney
Massachusetts Charitable Society
Ms. Christine McCall
Ms. Mary K. McCarron
Mr. and Mrs. James M. McCloy
Mr. Kevin McNally
Dr. and Mrs. Eric A. Meikle
Midnight Tango Fund
Mr. Danae Moss
Dr. and Mrs. Cory S. Myers
NextStep Nonprofit, LLC
Committee to Elect
Steven A. Nocco
The Nordson Corporation Foundation
Mr. Mikhail Nossov
Omicron PI Alumni
Mrs. Priti T. Patel
Mr. and Mrs. Harold G. Pratt
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Quinn
Mr. Dhiren Rathod
James N. and Julia B. Reichheld
Retired Public Employees Committee for Political Action
Mr. Raul Rios
Mr. Andrew Rocha
Mr. Wade Rubinstein
Salesforce.com, Inc.
Ms. Ann Scannell
Mr. Evan Schapiro
Mr. Gary Sepe
Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Shohet
Mr. David Smiley
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. St. Germain
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher J. Stagnone
Mr. Jay K. Stephens
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Sullivan
Sunflower of Hope Project Fundraiser
Ms. Rachel Sussman
Ms. Linda Sutter
D. Lisle Swanson and Amy McDermott Swanson Fund
Mr. Scott Tarbox
Theodore Edson Parker Foundation
Ms. Robin A. Toof
Mr. Michael Vagos
Mrs. Germaine T. Vigeant-Trudel
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Wagner, III
Aaron Watman DDS
Mr. Daniel Herbert Webster
Westford Community Fund
Bob Williams
Ms. Pamela Wolfe
Women Working Wonders Fund
Ms. Susu Wong
Ms. Amy Woo
Ms. Carla A. Woundy
Ms. Lisa Wright
GLCF’s 2020 COVID-19 Response Grant Recipients

GLCF was honored to support the following nonprofit organizations:

Aaron’s Presents
Able to Serve-New England, Inc.
Alternative House, Inc.
Ashby Fire Department
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence Lowell Project
Billerica Adventure Series Corporation
Billerica Community Pantry, Inc.
Billerica Council on Aging
Billerica Schools Nutrition Services
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell
Bridging Independent Living Together, Inc.
Budget Buddies, Inc.
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Assoc. of Greater Lowell, Inc.
Care Dimensions
Catie’s Closet, Inc.
Center for Hope and Healing, Inc.
Challenge Unlimited, Inc. at Ironstone Farm
Chelmsford Board of Health
Chelmsford Community Exchange
Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc.
Clear Path for Veterans New England
Coalition for a Better Acre
Collegiate Charter School of Lowell
Community Day Care Center of Lawrence, Inc.
Community Teamwork, Inc.
Dignity Matters, Inc.
Dracut Council on Aging
Dwelling House of Hope
Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.
Elevate New England, Inc.
Eliot Presbyterian Church
End 68 hours of hunger Feed the Fight Lowell
Gaining Ground, Inc.
Girls Incorporated of Greater Lowell, Inc.
Greater Lowell Family YMCA
Greater Lowell Health Alliance
Habitat for Humanity North Central Mass., Inc
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell
Hidden Battles Event House of Hope, Inc.
Incompass Human Services International Institute of New England
Into Action Recovery Inc
Kids in Tech, Inc.
Latinx Community Center for Empowerment
Life Connection Center, Inc.
Lifting Lowellians Assistance & Mutual Aid
Living Water Fellowship
Living Waters Ministry of Hope
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc.
Lowell Alliance for Families and Neighborhoods
Lowell Association for the Blind
Lowell Community Charter Public School
Lowell Community Health Center
Lowell General Hospital
Lowell House, Inc.
Lowell Humane Society
Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust
Lowell Telecommunications Corp.
Lowell Transitional Living Center
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Massachusetts Military Support Foundation
Megan House Foundation, Inc.
Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Inc.
Middlesex Community College Foundation
Mill City Grows
Minute Man Arc for Human Services, Inc.
Minuteman Senior Services
Nature Connection, Inc.
New England Paralyzed Veterans of America
North East Educational & Dev. Supports Center
Northeast Arc, Inc.
On the Move
On One Can Help
Open Pantry of Greater Lowell
Paul Center for Learning and Recreation
PCEA Neema Church, Inc.
People Helping People, Inc.
Pepperell Aid from Community to Home
Philanthropy Massachusetts
Power of Flowers Project
Project LEARN, Inc.
Provision Ministry, Inc.
Refuge Art School
Rise Above Foundation, Inc.
Seven Hills Extended Care at Groton - Seven Hills Pediatric Center
South Sudanese Enrichment for Families, Inc.
St. Paul’s Soup Kitchen, Inc.
Strongwater Farm Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Tewksbury
The Phoenix
The PLUS Company
Town of Carlisle Council on Aging
Town of Chelmsford
Townsend Council on Aging
Troubled Waters, Inc.
University of Massachusetts Foundation, Inc.
UTEC, Inc.
Virginia Thurston Healing Garden
VNA Care Network, Inc.
Wayside Youth & Family Support Network, Inc.
Westford Community Access Television, Inc.
Westford Council on Aging
Westford Food Pantry
Westford Rotary Club Charitable Endowment, Inc.
Wilmington Community Fund
Wish Project, Inc.
YWCA of Lowell

Strongwater Farm
LTLT
Lowell Alliance
On June 10th, the GLCF announced at our annual meeting the creation of the Racial Equity Action Fund. This fund will provide resources to address action items that advance racial justice and equity building in Greater Lowell.

2020 Racial Equity Grants - $84,500

- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell (Lowell): Addressing Racial Inequities as a Trauma-Informed Community
- Budget Buddies, Inc. (Chelmsford): Virtual Financial Empowerment Program for Women with Latinx Community Center for Empowerment
- Building Audacity (Lynn): Say Their Names (Greater Lowell)
- Cambodian American Literary Arts Association (Lowell): Cambodian American Literary Arts Association Community Dialogue and Workshop Series
- Cultivate Care Farms (Bolton – serves Greater Lowell): Diversity Training and Consultation
- Free Soil Arts Collective (Lowell): Hidden in Plain Sight: Stories of Black Lowell
- Kids in Tech, Inc. (Lowell): Afterschool Tech Club Program
- Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership (Lowell): Project Genesis Home Buyer Training Program
- Project LEARN, Inc. (Lowell): Elevating Stories, Changing Narratives – A Student-Led Antiracism Program
- Tewksbury Public Library (Tewksbury): Public Library Libraries Working Towards Social Justice

Focus On: Concord

GLCF awarded **Gaining Ground** over $30,000 to get fresh produce to people struggling to put food on the table. A significant portion of the grant came from the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. Gaining Ground normally relies on the help of thousands of volunteers to grow, harvest, and donate the nutritious produce from the farm. GLCF’s support last year helped make it possible for Gaining Ground to continue normal operations and levels of food production despite needing to temporarily suspend their volunteer program.
GLCF Grant Helps Nonprofits Improve Virtual Programming

Virtual well-baby visits for new moms and infants; monitoring a nest of turtle eggs in the wild; cooking videos led by a local nutritionist; and online nature walks with a botanical illustrator. These are just a few examples of the new online programming local nonprofits have created, thanks to technical-training classes from Lowell TeleMedia Center, funded by a grant from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation.

In spring of 2020, when the pandemic forced nonprofit organizations into lockdown mode, they moved their face-to-face programs online. However, as summer fast approached, many realized they needed help creating virtual programming to attract young people.

“Kids are usually outside running around during the summer, but all that changed this year with COVID-19,” explained Wendy Blom, now retired Executive Director of Lowell TeleMedia Center (LTC). “Our local nonprofits knew they had to start offering online summer programming -- and they had to do it quickly.”

Recognizing this need, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) awarded a $5,000 grant to LTC to organize a series of Media Making classes for ten youth-serving nonprofits. Offered in late June and early July, the training covered Zoom, social media, TikTok, cell-phone video, podcasting, and iMovie editing.

The response to Media Making classes was overwhelmingly positive, said Blom. “I was amazed that so many organizations -- and how many staff -- wanted to take our classes.” LTC trained 115 people, she said, and both small and large nonprofits took advantage of the six courses. The online content they created was also highly varied.

Jane Calvin, Executive Director of Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust (LPCT), said her staff of four welcomed the training. “It was perfect timing,” said Calvin. “We had already started creating virtual content but had questions about how to do it better and how to get it out to a wider audience.”

One of the few accredited urban land trusts in the country, LPCT protects land throughout Lowell and provides community programming to connect residents to natural resources in the city -- including outdoor after-school and summer programs.

“When COVID shut everything down, I told my staff, ‘Be creative! Let’s take advantage of this time to get out to Trust properties we haven’t videoed before,’” Calvin recalled.

So, Environmental Educator Emily Wood began making virtual nature walks, encouraging viewers to create nature journals to keep track of the plants and animals they encountered. Wood’s engrossing videos also feature beautiful time-lapse botanical illustrations she draws on camera.

The Trust also created virtual content teachers could use, added Calvin. In previous years, three Lowell science teachers had run popular “turtle-adoption” programs in their classrooms. Shortly after COVID-19 shut down schools, a Trust staff...
member noticed that a rare Blanding’s turtle, a threatened species, had laid eggs in her neighborhood. She began making short videos as she kept watch over the nest.

During the summer, in conjunction with Zoo New England, LPCT monitored the nest, and eventually, eight baby turtles hatched. Trust staff and volunteers are now raising the turtles in a terrarium in the office and plan to release them back into the wild next spring.

Lowell’s Community Teamwork Inc. (CTI), a community action agency with more than 500 employees, also benefitted from the Media Making classes, according to Amy Weatherbee, Manager of Grants & Planning.

“By March 16, word of mouth just shut down, so word of mouth went virtual,” said Weatherbee. “We had to pivot quickly to online program delivery, and when this opportunity at LTC came up, we jumped at it.

“Not only did our summer-youth programmers want training, but we also asked if staff from other CTI divisions could attend Media Making classes,” she said. The Foundation agreed, and Community Teamwork sent more than 30 staffers from across the organization to the virtual classes.

As a result, CTI’s Entrepreneurship Center began hosting daily Zoom calls for small-business owners with questions about how to apply for federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, Weatherbee explained.

No longer able to hold in-person nutrition workshops, a nutritionist in CTI’s Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program created a series of popular “healthy eating” cooking videos. Another WIC staffer moved her well-baby sessions online, and in the process, discovered that her client list grew because new moms found it easier to attend virtually.

According to Weatherbee, these are just a few of the many ways CTI utilized Media Making classes to improve client outreach. “The Foundation was great. It stepped in and quickly provided much-needed help to agencies that had to switch to the realities of remote work.”

**Focus On: Groton**

Children living at Seven Hills Pediatric Center have also benefitted from a GLCF grant to purchase five iPads, plus five tall standers to hold the devices. An 83-bed skilled nursing center in Groton, Seven Hills serves profoundly disabled and medically complex children.

When COVID-19 began spreading, the facility had to completely lock down. Families were not allowed to visit, and children had to remain in their rooms and on their floors. The iPads were used to connect children with their families again.
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From Chelmsford Community Exchange (CCE):
“We are so thankful for the recent GLCF grant. At the end of July 2020 we were feeding about 800 clients a month; our most recent numbers are 1000 a month. Given the current Coronavirus conditions we are projecting our numbers to increase at least for the short term. The grant money will assist the pantry in meeting this projected demand. The Greater Lowell Community Foundation has really come through for us.” - David T. Eberiel, CCE

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