

A PROFILE IN GIVING

# Living and Giving Off the Grid

Chris Schimmoeller and Joel Dufour may live off the grid, but they are integrally connected to their community.

"I grew up without a telephone, television or running water. We heated with wood and hauled our water up the hill from a spring. But I had love, the outdoors and lots of books, so I always felt rich," says Chris.

Both Joel and Chris grew up in rural poverty. Chris and her family were tenants on a tobacco and cattle farm in Woodford County. Joel was raised in southern Indiana, working on his family's farm and in their small-engine repair shop. Along with his six siblings, Joel was home schooled throughout his entire education. In his free time, he explored the old-growth woods on his family's land, read extensively and taught himself to play drums.

Today, Joel owns and runs Earth Tools, the largest retail dealer of walk-behind tractors in North America. Earth Tools serves professional gardeners and market farmers worldwide. All of its facilities are run 100% with solar energy.

Chris, a graduate of Georgetown College and Fulbright Scholar to India, has been involved



in numerous environmental efforts, including national forest protection, regional water planning, smart growth initiatives, comprehensive planning and fighting natural gas liquid pipelines. She currently serves as president of Envision Franklin County, which she helped found in 2003.

Joel and Chris and their daughters, Natalie, 17, and Sophie, 14, live in the woods of northern Franklin County in an off-the grid, earth-bermed straw bale home that Chris and Joel built themselves. They are within walking distance of Chris' parents, siblings and their families.

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FROM LISA ADKINS

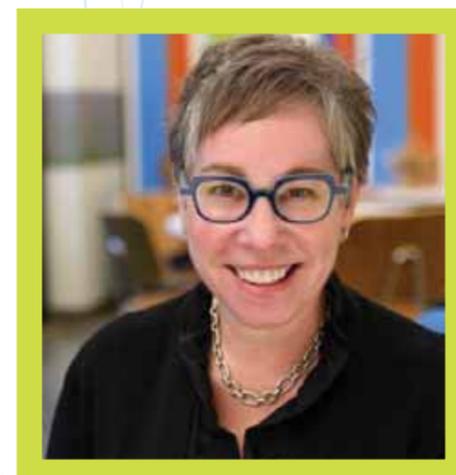
## Our President's Letter

While Valentine's Day 2021 is in the rearview mirror and the blooming of forsythia is just around the corner, it's never too late to express how much we love and appreciate the big hearts and incredible generosity of our BGCF fundholders and donors! 2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges, and though hope abounds, many challenges remain. Throughout all of it, the generosity of BGCF donors has been our constant.

Your gifts help create stronger, healthier and more equitable communities across the Bluegrass and Appalachia, Kentucky.

This issue of BGCFyi is filled with the impact of your generosity. From the 2020 GoodGiving Challenge (our most successful ever) to the Coronavirus Response Fund, we are proving we make the most impact for good when we invest together.

If we can help bring your unique giving story to life, call our office at 859.225.3343 or email me at [ladkins@bgcf.org](mailto:ladkins@bgcf.org). We look forward to serving as your partner in philanthropy.



Lisa Ashner Adkins, J.D.  
President/CEO

## INSIDE

Grassroots Black Leadership Awards	2
News Brief	3
BGCF At A Glance	3
GoodGiving Challenge	4
Coronavirus Response Fund	6
Hometown Legacy	7
New Charitable You	7
Welcome to the Family	8
Grant Spotlight	8

# Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative Announces Grassroots Black Leadership Award Honorees

The Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative (LBPI), a community-advised committee of BGCF, presented the first class of Grassroots Black Leadership Award honorees to recognize and invest in individuals who are on the frontlines leading the vital work of addressing racial equity, disparities in the Black community and social justice across Lexington. Award winners received an unrestricted stipend of \$2,500 in recognition of their efforts at the grassroots level to affect change in our community.

“The Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative wanted to recognize a primary reason our culturally rich Black community is thriving: an emerging group we consider to be our unsung heroes on the cutting edge of greatness in leadership in our community,” said Tiffany Daniels, LBPI co-chair.

“We are witnessing the metamorphosis of these heroes blending their passion and

“ Oftentimes as a Black creator, I find myself trapped between the clutches of a city's majority still struggling to fully accept diversity and a minority community of other visionaries fighting for the few scraps of opportunity that are privy to us. Many of my fellow business owners and community organizers of color walk this dual tightrope in an effort to inspire change. To be seen and honored like this motivates me to continue pushing myself in my work in hopes that I can be a bridge between the competing forces that often leave us drained. 2020 was a difficult year for my family and me. This honor was the perfect spark to end a challenging year and begin the next!” — Devine Carama

purpose to create stronger Black communities in Lexington,” said Lisa Higgins-Hord, LBPI co-chair. “We consider them to be our uniters, change agents and community innovators. They remind us that greatness is available to anyone who wants to access it.”



Devine Carama is a socially conscious hip-hop artist, educator, community activist and motivational youth speaker. He is

director of the nonprofit youth organization Believing In Forever, Inc. Carama is the recipient of the 2017 Coretta Scott Spirit of Ivy Award for community service and the George H. W. Bush's Point of Light Volunteer Award.



Khari Gardner, a University of Kentucky student, founded the Movement for Black Lives at UK to focus on social, racial and

economic justice in the college's community, the Lexington community and across the commonwealth. The Movement for Black Lives collaborates with a wide variety of organizations to improve the quality of life of all Black people and of all marginalized groups, as well.



Tonya Lindsey founded Sisters & Supporters Working Against Gun Violence (SWAG) in 2013 to promote awareness of the impact of gun

violence on communities. She has hosted educational events for youth, including Stop the Bleed, Hands Only CPR, prevention lock-ins and resource fairs.



Sharon Murphy's social justice work provides education on the importance of voting and how policy impacts lives.

Her Facebook posts

during elections, “Sharon's Election Office,” provide practical information about voter registration and candidates' positions to empower people to make decisions that align with their values and interests.



Elisha Mutayongwa founded the Rafiki Center to better serve the Swahili-speaking community in Lexington. The

Rafiki Center creates

cross-cultural connections through education, events and advocating for improved representation of the Swahili-speaking community in the school district, the business community, the DMV, local clinics, and hospitals and social services.



Stephen T. Overstreet founded Our Park in 2013 to transform Douglass Park from an environment conducive to drugs

and violence into a place that could be used for fun and enjoyment. As a member of the City Council's 100-year Centennial Commission for Douglass Park, Overstreet organized more than 100 events in and for the park.



Ashley C. Smith and Trevor Claiborn Sr. co-founded Black Soil: Our Better Nature in 2017 to help reconnect Black Kentuckians to their

# LEXINGTON BLACK PROSPERITY INITIATIVE

heritage and legacy in agriculture. Black Soil fosters the next generation of Kentucky Black farmers and chefs and leads efforts to address racialized disparities and barriers.



Tanya Torp is a diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility consultant who has worked as a facilitator at

numerous organizations providing workshops to improve Black lives. She is co-founder of Not The Only One In the Room, a space for women of color in the community, and is co-founder of BIPOC womyn's writing group.

“Black contributions and achievements often go unnoticed. Combating such omissions is a critical undertaking, especially in today’s environment. I am humbled to be counted among the recipients of the Grassroots Black Leadership Award. Thank you, Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative, for this tremendous recognition.”

— Rev. L. Clark Williams



Rev. L. Clark Williams has been involved in social justice and voter engagement work in Lexington and Central Kentucky,

and throughout the state, since 2010. He founded Operation Turnout and The People’s Campaign to inform and engage those who care about affordable health care, public education, and social and economic justice.

 Learn more and support the LBPI at [bgcf.org/racialequity](https://bgcf.org/racialequity).

# BGCF AT A GLANCE

From January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Total Assets	\$158,576,412
Number of Grants Awarded	3,028
Nonprofits Receiving Grants	1,267
Grants Awarded	\$12,289,393
Grants Since Inception	\$118,196,830

(LIVING AND GIVING OFF THE GRID FROM PAGE 1)

Chris and Joel have a profound respect for the land and are committed to its stewardship.

“The forests of the eastern United States are both precious and essential, yet they are in a continual state of crisis because of development, logging, extraction and neglect,” says Chris. “We need large tracts of intact forests for a stable climate and to support the biodiversity of life.”

In 1992, Chris helped found Kentucky Heartwood, a forest advocacy organization that works to protect public lands such as the Daniel Boone National Forest and Land Between the Lakes. In 2007 she helped establish Woods & Waters Land Trust, a nonprofit that assists landowners in permanently protecting forests and streams in the lower Kentucky River watershed.

To further support the environmental causes they care so deeply about, Joel and Chris partner with BGCF. They established the Fund for Wild Kentucky, an endowment to support efforts to protect, restore, expand, and connect natural lands in Kentucky and the region in order to promote functioning ecosystems. Additionally, they helped establish the Woods & Waters Land Trust

Endowment Fund and the Dufour/Schimmoller Family Fund to support environmental work in the state.

In a testament to their belief in the importance of community, Chris and Joel donate 5% of each gift from their Family Fund to the Franklin County Community Fund (FCCF). “As individuals, we don’t know about all the good work that deserves support,” says Chris. “The FCCF has a local board that understands local needs.”

FCCF is one of a network of endowed community funds under BGCF’s umbrella. Each is overseen by a local advisory board and supports local causes. In 2020 the Franklin County Community Fund granted \$30,270 to Franklin County grassroots organizations for COVID-19 relief.

“Joel and I want to support the terrific environmental and community work that gets done by nonprofits in Kentucky,” says Chris. “BGCF makes charitable giving easy, and we support its mission of doing good.”

 To learn more about the Franklin County Community Fund and other community funds at BGCF, contact  Jane Higgins at [janehiggins@bgcf.org](mailto:janehiggins@bgcf.org) or visit [bgcf.org/community-funds/](https://bgcf.org/community-funds/).

## NEWS BRIEF



### Meet Alison Jackson and Kaeton Crosby

BGCF welcomed two new team members: Alison Jackson, office manager/assistant to CEO, and Kaeton Crosby, communications

associate. Learn more about Alison and Kaeton at [bgcf.org/ourteam](https://bgcf.org/ourteam).

### BGCF365 GRANTS

In January, BGCF365 members met virtually and voted to award a total of \$25,000 in grants to five Lexington nonprofits delivering arts programming in innovative ways during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The recipients are Central Music Academy, Allegro Dance Project, Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, Lexington Philharmonic and On the Move Art Studio. BGCF365 is a giving circle that connects Lexington’s aspiring philanthropists for just \$1 per day. Learn more and join BGCF365 at [bgcf.org/bgcf365](https://bgcf.org/bgcf365).

# 2020 GOODGIVING CHALLENGE

## HIGHLIGHTS



**\$18,858**

Average Raised Per Nonprofit



**\$175**

Average Gift Size



**\$232,645**

Most Money Raised In One Hour

## MAJOR UNDERWRITERS

Murry Foundation	\$ 100,000
Marksbury Family Foundation	\$ 60,000
Mitchell Family Foundation	\$ 50,000
Thomas R. Bryant Jr. & Betty R. Bryant Fund	\$ 25,000
MacAdam Family Foundation	\$ 25,000
Knight Foundation DAF	\$ 25,000
Total Wine & More	\$ 23,000

### ADDITIONAL MATCHING DOLLARS AND PRIZES PROVIDED BY:

- Blue Grass Community Foundation
- Hudson-Ellis Fund
- Clark County Community Foundation
- West Sixth Brewing

## THE GEOGRAPHY OF GIVING



**77**

Kentucky Counties



**47**

States and District of Columbia



Canada



Scotland



England



New Zealand



France

**1/3**

OF DONORS GAVE TO A NEW NONPROFIT FOR THE FIRST TIME



**TOTAL RAISED \$2.39 MILLION**

# BIGGEST AND BEST YET!



The 10th annual GoodGiving Challenge raised a record-breaking total of \$2.39 million for 126 local nonprofits during the week-long online giving campaign that launched on Giving Tuesday. Created and hosted by Blue Grass Community Foundation and Smiley Pete Publishing, the GoodGiving Challenge connects charitable individuals with local nonprofits by providing a convenient online giving platform at BGgives.org.

Since its inception in 2011, the GoodGiving Challenge has raised more than \$14 million for area nonprofits. In 2019 the Challenge raised \$1.68 million for 131 local nonprofits through more than 7,900 gifts made. The 2020 numbers showed not only a 30% increase in funds raised, but they also showed an increase in number of gifts, with 13,700 donations. "At Blue Grass Community Foundation, building greater community

generosity is central to what we do," said Lisa Adkins, president/CEO of Blue Grass Community Foundation. "We're gratified by the community's response, particularly in the midst of a pandemic. We know the needs are acute right now and appreciate local givers rising to the occasion. Of course we couldn't do this without our funding partners, who made giving through the Challenge so fun and rewarding."

"Raising almost \$2.4 million in seven days is an amazing capstone to a challenging year," said Lauren Parsons, director of strategic initiatives + communications at Blue Grass Community Foundation. "Nonprofits have been working harder than ever to make our community great, and we're so pleased that the community rallied in support of them to make the 2020 GoodGiving such a successful fundraising event."

One-third of donors gave to a new nonprofit for the first time, providing critical funding to organizations that deliver important services to our region.

"We love the concept of the GoodGiving Challenge and are so grateful for the opportunity to participate this year," said Allie Barnett, executive director of Justin's Place. "We are a new nonprofit and feel extremely blessed to have raised our full operating budget through the Challenge in just one week! We look forward to serving more children and growing our services in 2021."

**SAVE THE DATE for the 2021 GoodGiving Challenge: November 30–December 6!** For more information about how you can support or participate in the GoodGiving Challenge, contact BGCF's Director of Strategic Initiatives + Communications Lauren Parsons at [lauren@bgcf.org](mailto:lauren@bgcf.org).



## I ♥ GoodGiving

**Jennifer Hester Mattox**

I've seen how nonprofits can change lives and improve the quality of life, and so I give donations to charities whose work makes the biggest difference—not only in my life, but in the lives of people who need those charities most.



**Eden Bennett**

I love that the GoodGiving Challenge gets the word out about so many of the amazing nonprofits, big and small, which do so much GOOD in our communities!



**Jeana Klevene**

As a relatively small & still fairly new nonprofit, the matching funds & prizes offered through the GoodGiving Challenge make a HUGE impact for our annual fundraising campaign & have really helped us grow! Personally, I love learning more about all of the amazing organizations in our community & the important work they are doing. And especially this year—when we are all feeling isolated & a bit socially disconnected—to see our city show up & GIVE on this level is very heartwarming!



**Ellie Miller**

I love the GoodGiving Challenge because it shows how amazingly generous our Central Kentucky community is! As a relatively small nonprofit, we are always blown away by the amount of support we receive during the Challenge, and it would not be possible without BGCF being such amazing facilitators!



**Eileen Dallaire**

It is wonderful to have an organization that helps us all come together to support some amazing causes. The GoodGiving Challenge is so important in amplifying the voices of the nonprofits that are on the front lines and making a difference. Blue Grass Community Foundation gives hope to those in need, especially during such uncertain times.



**Lauren Mink Frazer**

I love that the GoodGiving Challenge puts nonprofits on a platform and showcases all the GOOD that's happening around us. It's also amazing to see how one community can come together and show so much love and generosity to such deserving organizations.



**Jillian Pyatte**

I give because I believe in the mission of nonprofits and the impact they have on all of us!



**Kathy Loeb**

I give because there are great organizations doing wonderful & amazing things that make a huge difference



**Heather Woolwine**

I love that there are so many matching funds in the GoodGiving Challenge. It encourages those who don't have much to give by making their donations go so much further than they would without the match. The generosity in our Central Kentucky communities is overwhelming!



# CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE FUND

**WE GET BETTER TOGETHER.**

**BLUE GRASS  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
WE'RE IN IT FOR GOOD.



Thanks to generous donors, the Coronavirus Response Fund, a partnership of Blue Grass Community Foundation and United Way of the Bluegrass, has helped those most affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

**\$1,186,800**  
**TOTAL  
RAISED**

**TOTAL AMOUNT  
GRANTED**  
**\$1,119,723**

**UNIQUE 55 GRANTEES**

## BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS BY AREA OF NEED:

Food Assistance	\$ 555,600	50%
Rent and Utility Assistance	\$ 140,903	13%
Wraparound Services	\$ 99,000	9%
NTI Assistance	\$ 120,710	11%
Transportation	\$ 40,000	4%
Basic Needs/Supplies	\$ 35,000	3%
Childcare	\$ 33,000	3%
Information Dissemination for English Language Learners	\$ 33,010	3%
Emergency Shelter	\$ 30,000	3%
Health Care	\$ 32,500	3%
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT GRANTED</b>	<b>\$ 1,119,723</b>	

## THANK YOU to the following donors for giving \$10,000 or more to the Coronavirus Response Fund.

3M  
Alltech Inc.  
Alpenglow Foundation  
Bechtel Group Foundation  
Blue Grass Community Foundation  
Coca-Cola  
The Council of State Governments  
CVS Health  
Don Jacobs, Sr. Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Dupree & Company, Inc.  
Footwork Shoes Inc. DBA Oneness

Frances Hollis Brain Foundation Fund  
Fund for Greater Lexington at BGCF  
Hinkle Family Foundation  
The Humana Foundation, Inc.  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Jenna and Matthew Mitchell Foundation  
John N. Browning Family Fund  
Kentucky Bank  
Kentucky for Kentucky LLC  
Keystone Financial  
Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

LG&E and KU Foundation, Inc.  
Salomon & Company  
Sam Mitchell  
Southland Christian Church  
Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky  
Truist  
United Way of the Bluegrass  
Valvoline  
Walmart Inc.

 **THE NEED CONTINUES!** Donate now at [bgcf.org/coronavirus](https://bgcf.org/coronavirus)



# HOMETOWN LEGACY

Blue Grass Community Foundation hosts a network of endowed community funds, each seeking to improve the quality of life in its geography. In partnership with local leaders, these funds work to increase charitable giving and build local charitable resources to impact their communities' greatest needs and opportunities.

Contributing to your local community fund is one important way to invest together for community good.

If you live in, or love, Clark, Franklin, Fayette, Harrison, Madison, Magoffin, Morgan, Rowan or Woodford counties, visit our website to learn more about endowed community funds in these counties: [bgcf.org/community-funds](http://bgcf.org/community-funds).

## CLARK COUNTIANS GIVE WHERE THEY LIVE:

# Nearly \$600,000 Raised for Clark County Nonprofits Through the GoodGiving Challenge

2020 was a challenging year, particularly for our local nonprofit organizations. The rising need for critical services combined with the uncertainty of the economy has stretched many nonprofit organizations thin. That's where the Clark County community stepped in. In the one-week time frame of the 2020 GoodGiving Challenge, Clark countians, and friends of Clark County organizations, raised more than \$360,000 for the 25 Clark County nonprofit participants. Add in the Clark County Community Foundation's dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$10,000 per organization, and the multitude of other matches and prizes

offered by BGCF and BGCF donors, and that total grew to \$594,457!

Clark County donors have always been generous during the GoodGiving Challenge, but in one of the hardest years our community has experienced, 2020's increase in donations means so much more. These critical dollars will provide much-needed general operating support to empower our nonprofits to continue their vital work.

Nonprofit participants provide services that impact every aspect of our quality of life in Clark County. Because of your generosity,

combined with the match from Clark County Community Foundation, we will be able to continue providing shelter to our homeless, feeding our hungry, educating our youth, aiding our animals, and strengthening culture and diversity in our community. The days ahead will be brighter because of you.



To learn more about the Clark County Community Foundation and how you can help support charitable causes in Clark County, contact Halee Cunningham at [halee@bgcf.org](mailto:halee@bgcf.org).

# NEW YEAR, NEW CHARITABLE YOU

Like many of you, we welcomed 2021 with hope for health, prosperity and normalcy. While some may have already given up on their New Year's resolutions, it's never too late to incorporate charitable giving and community mindedness into your goals. Blue Grass Community Foundation is here to be your charitable giving partner! Below are some simple ways to get started.

## 1. OPEN A DONOR ADVISED FUND.

One of the easiest ways to organize your charitable giving is through a Donor Advised Fund. Donor Advised Funds, or DAFs, allow individuals, families and businesses to make charitable contributions at any time (receiving a tax deduction at the time of the gift) and then request grant checks be distributed to nonprofits and charitable organizations later. Donors can make grants to numerous organizations while only needing to keep up with one tax receipt.

## 2. REVIEW YOUR ESTATE PLANS AND CONSIDER LEAVING A CHARITABLE LEGACY.

Our communities thrive when our nonprofit organizations have long-term financial sustainability. As you consider distributions for family and friends after your lifetime, also consider distributions to the nonprofits, religious organizations, educational institutions and charitable causes you care about. BGCF can help you organize your after-lifetime charitable giving to ensure the causes you care about are supported long into the future.

## 3. INTRODUCE THE NEXT GENERATION TO CHARITABLE GIVING.

Take time this year to speak to your children about charitable giving. Check out BGCF's Giving Guide Toolkit at [bit.ly/BGCFGG1](http://bit.ly/BGCFGG1) to discuss your family's charitable interests and philanthropic goals. Then visit the Kentucky Nonprofit Directory at [bgcf.org/kynonprofitdirectory](http://bgcf.org/kynonprofitdirectory) to learn more about local nonprofit organizations, discover new nonprofits that work in your family's interest area, and find opportunities to give and volunteer.

Blue Grass Community Foundation creates more generous, vibrant and engaged communities, growing charitable giving throughout the Bluegrass and Appalachia Kentucky.



## Welcome to the Family!

These new charitable funds were established between September 15, 2020, and January 15, 2021. Please join us in welcoming them to our BGCF community of givers.

2 Dudes Moving Charitable Foundation  
Backer Family Foundation  
Betty Skinner Memorial Fund\*  
Constance Donahue Foundation  
Daryl and Rhonda Love Foundation  
Diversity in Welding Scholarship Fund  
The Dorothy Hillenmeyer Crutcher and Family Fund for STAND  
Drs. Robert and Jennifer Thompson Fund\*  
Elhapa Community Fund  
Estill Family Charitable Fund  
Faye Wallace Leet Herman Fund  
Financially Assisting Animal Rescues in Central Kentucky (FARRICK)  
The Gratitude Fund  
Jack and Janie Whitaker Fund  
Jason Huber Family Charitable Fund

Jerry Hardt and Diane Yoder Giving Fund  
John G. Heber Scholarship Fund  
John G. Scott Charitable Fund  
Julie Beth Hayden Foundation  
Kubale Family Endowment\*  
Lucas Family Charitable Fund  
Main Street Winchester Charitable Fund  
Manny Caulk Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Marion Collins & Ellen Parker Hagan Family Foundation\*  
Mark Kenneth Strong Charitable Fund  
Menschlichkeit Endowment  
Phyllis George Memorial Fund  
Rebekah Duke and Jerod Crockett Foundation  
Sean and Monica Cain Foundation\*  
Southern Concierge Charitable Foundation  
Taylor Made Stallions Fund  
Thomas P. & Ann B. Knox Charitable Fund  
UpLift KY 2021  
Wardrop-Wirth Family Charitable Fund  
Wendy and Daniel Rowland Donor Advised Fund

\* Legacy Fund

With 22 new funds created in December 2020, it was a record-setting month for BGCF. "Year-end is always a busy time, particularly with establishing new donor advised funds," said Scott Fitzpatrick, BGCF vp/advancement. "It's amazing that we welcomed a record number of new fundholders in the middle of a pandemic. Nothing gives us greater joy than partnering with charitable individuals and businesses to help them discover the transformative power of generosity."



If you would like to create your own charitable giving fund, contact Scott Fitzpatrick at 859.225.3343 or [sfitzpatrick@bgcf.org](mailto:sfitzpatrick@bgcf.org).



## GRANT SPOTLIGHT

### Beulah S. Mays Grant Connects Seniors During Pandemic

Sayre Christian Village, Fayette County's sole nonprofit assisted-living center, wanted to



provide smart TVs for their low-income residents whose feelings of isolation have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. With support from the Beulah S. Mays Charitable Endowment, a legacy fund at BGCF, we awarded Sayre Christian Village a grant of \$4,800 to purchase 28 smart TVs and seven Roku sticks for low-income residents who did not have access to these items. This

grant enabled these residents to stream church services, documentaries, exercise programs, and other in-house activities to stay connected and fight social isolation.

After receiving her new smart TV, one resident started to cry. "I don't know what I ever did to deserve this," she said. "You know, I have not yet called this place home, but it is starting to feel like it. Thank you."



For more information about available grants, contact Kristen Tidwell, director of grants and scholarships at [kristen@bgcf.org](mailto:kristen@bgcf.org), or visit [bgcf.org/grant-opportunities](http://bgcf.org/grant-opportunities).



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[bgcf.org/BGCFyi](http://bgcf.org/BGCFyi)