



Our Mission: To improve lives and meet community needs by uniting people and resources

FY 2019-2020 FUNDED PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY COALITIONS

EDUCATION

Boys & Girls Clubs of North Mississippi's Power Hour program provides homework and tutoring assistance to Lafayette-Oxford-University (LOU) Barksdale Club members in first through third grade in order to improve reading proficiency and on-time grade progression.

Gordon Community & Cultural Center, Inc. seeks to prevent summer learning loss among rising first through sixth graders through its Abbeville School Educational Summer Enrichment Camp. Curriculum includes language, reading comprehension, math, physical education, nutrition, and financial literacy.

Lafayette County Literacy Council's Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) program offers a strategic approach to increase local literacy levels by increasing the number of community members who have a high school equivalency certificate through one-on-one coaching by trained volunteers.

Lafayette County Literacy Council's Dolly Parton Imagination Library program provides a quality, age-appropriate book on a monthly basis to registered Lafayette County children between the ages of birth to five years. The program seeks to ensure all children have books at home, regardless of the environment in which they live.

LOU Reads Coalition is a group of local organizations and community leaders dedicated to ensuring that all children in our community can read proficiently by the end of the 3rd grade. Coalition members focus their collective energy and expertise on school readiness, attendance, out-of-school time opportunities, and targeted efforts to promote grade-level reading. Coalition goals include ensuring all children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed in school as well as life (school readiness), increasing the percentage of children who miss fewer than ten days of school on an annual basis (attendance), minimizing summer learning loss as well as increasing participation in quality out-of-school time programs (out-of-school time), and improving supports so as to increase the percentage of students who end the school year as proficient readers (grade-level reading).

The Leap Frog Program is an after-school tutoring and enrichment program that provides a nurturing environment in which "at-risk" first-, second-, and third-grade students can develop and enhance necessary skills for academic success, build productive, ongoing relationships with adults, and improve their self-esteem.

HEALTH

Exchange Club Family Center's Raising Mothers to Rise (RMR) program seeks to prevent child abuse by providing first-time teen mothers with education and support while also aiming to prevent a second pregnancy, keep teen mothers in school on a graduation track, and improve maternal and fetal outcomes.

Family Crisis Services of Northwest Mississippi's Victim Services program seeks to reduce the trauma of violence by providing immediate and long-term support to victims and survivors of sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, and homicide.

Girl Scouts Heart of the South's Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader (GIRL) on the Go program teaches girls how to make positive choices for physical and emotional health while also helping them develop a strong sense of self, positive values, healthy relationships, and problem-solving skills.

Good Food for Oxford Schools' Growing and Learning: Culture of Health program helps students and their families learn about healthy meals and snacks, physical fitness, where their food comes from, and how to grow food, while also developing an appreciation for nature, animals, and the environment.

Oxford Community Market's Healthy Food, Healthy Families Outreach program builds skills and knowledge for lifelong healthy eating through cooking activities and educational resources while also increasing accessibility of fresh, locally-grown produce to families with limited incomes.

Special Olympics Mississippi – Area IV provides year-round sports training and athletic competition opportunities, health programming, and community inclusion activities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Doors of Hope Transition Ministries' Self-sufficiency Transition Empowerment Program (STEP) guides homeless families and at-risk homeless families toward self-reliance as well as stability through a holistic, individualistic approach that includes life-skills training, mentoring, and supportive housing.

LOU Saves seeks to increase rates of financial literacy and encourage active rates of saving for higher education among low-income families. The program works with local students to open savings accounts that are restricted for higher education expenses and parents to receive financial coaching and education.

LOU-Home, Inc. offers ethical as well as reliable counseling which aims to increase the financial literacy of low-income residents and increase the number of people who are prepared and eligible for owning/renting quality housing.

North Mississippi Kidney Foundation's Patient Assistance program provides individuals on life-saving dialysis with need-based assistance for expenses related to medications, transportation, and emergency financial needs.

North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS) helps ensure financial stability for low-income senior residents through its Save Our Seniors (SOS) program, which provides education, legal counsel, and legal assistance to low-income senior citizens who may be victims of scams.

BASIC NEEDS

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Lafayette County's programming provides trained volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the youth court system, with a primary focus on providing every vulnerable child a CASA volunteer to stand by his/her side.

Interfaith Compassion Ministry (ICM)'s Homeless Client Assistance program provides for the basic needs of local homeless individuals, including but not limited to counseling, food, temporary housing, and ultimately, safe, affordable residences.

Interfaith Compassion Ministry (ICM)'s Indigent Client Assistance program seeks to assist local families with basic needs (rent, utilities, food, medical care, transportation to jobs, etc.), help stabilize them, prevent homelessness, and provide counseling, which may include prioritizing financial decisions.

Oxford-Lafayette Habitat for Humanity's Helping Hands program seeks to improve quality of life for low-income and elderly residents by completing basic maintenance repairs and improvements such as cleaning drains, painting rooms, replacing light fixtures, and various other projects.

Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging (AAA) provides senior citizens nutritional meals five days a week, keeps senior citizens in their home environment for as long as possible, and provides socialization as well as financial stability through the Meals on Wheels program.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY IMPACT WORK

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Clinic assists low- and moderate-income residents of Lafayette County with free tax return preparation twice a week at the Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library during tax season. Students in the University of Mississippi School of Law's tax practicum clinical program manage and staff the clinic.