The 2021 Secretary’s Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships

Advent Health Foundation
Wayne Densch Center

Challenge
To prevent the closure of the Wayne Densch Center and address the shortage of permanent supportive housing in Central Florida.

Innovation
With an eye toward long-term sustainability, the project developed a property management plan that ensured financial viability, avoided resident displacement, and added 11 units to the center.

Overview
Based in Roseville, California, the Advent Health Foundation—in conjunction with Ability Housing, Inc., Central Florida Foundation, Wayne Densch Charities, and Orange County—oversaw the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Wayne Densch Center transitional housing facility in Orange County, Florida. Completed in August 2020, the project has provided permanent supportive housing to “75 low and very low-income households, 58 homeless households, and 31 persons living with a disability.”

Partners
Wayne Densch Center, Wayne Densch Charities, Ability Housing, Inc., Central Florida Foundation, and Orange County.
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Buhl Foundation

Northview Heights Community Safety Partnership

Pittsburgh, PA

Challenge

To improve public safety in the Northview Heights housing community.

Innovation

Convening local stakeholders, Buhl established the Northview Heights Community Safety Partnership with the goal of “transitioning from ‘re-active policing’ to ‘pro-active public safety’” through sustained dialogue and collaborative effort.

Overview

As part of its place-based strategy called One Northside (ONS), the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania-based Buhl Foundation conducted a “Community Census” of the 18 neighborhoods covered by ONS. The results of that survey led to the creation of the Northview Heights Community Safety Partnership, “a multi-sector collaborative to solve safety and quality-of-life concerns.” Comprising the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, and residents, the partnership resulted in a community policing strategy that includes increased cooperation between Northview Heights residents and staff, Pittsburgh police, and the Calvin M. Hall Public Safety Center—“a police substation and a community hub.”

PARTNERS

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, and Pittsburgh Bureau of Police.
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CareSource Foundation

Healthy Beginnings at Home

Franklin County, OH

Challenge

To address elevated infant mortality rates in Franklin County, Ohio.

Innovation

Through a comprehensive approach to partnerships, targeted housing stabilization services, and rental assistance, the project works to improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

Overview

CareSource partnered with the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, CelebrateOne, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and the Homeless Families Foundation to launch the Healthy Beginnings at Home pilot program. In an effort to “strengthen the evidence regarding the impact of stable housing in addressing infant mortality, prematurity, and improving health outcomes for women and their infants,” the pilot involved a 2-year research study and culminated in a public policy summit in July 2020.

PARTNERS

Ohio Housing Finance Agency, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, CelebrateOne, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and Homeless Families Foundation.
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Citi Foundation

City Accelerator

Challenge
To enhance public policy’s ability to reach historically underserved communities.

Innovation
Providing a combination of technical assistance and flexible financing, the City Accelerator competition offers policymakers a platform to test new approaches in a collaborative environment.

Overview
Launched in 2014 in conjunction with Living Cities, the foundation’s City Accelerator program focuses on “administrative, financial, political or cultural innovation efforts that produce stronger outcomes for residents and help cities run more efficiently, effectively, and equitably.” Since the inception of City Accelerator, 27 cities have participated in the program, resulting in innovations from public-sector procurement to civic engagement.

Partner
Living Cities.
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National Church Residences Foundation

Commons at South Cumminssville

Columbus, OH

**Challenge**

To address the lack of affordable, permanent supportive housing for people with disabilities or who have experienced homelessness.

**Innovation**

Partnering with multiple stakeholders to both fund construction and operate the Commons, the project includes onsite social workers who provide supportive services.

**Overview**

Based in Columbus, Ohio, the National Church Residences Foundation developed Commons at South Cumminssville with a combination of public and private financing to provide 80 units of permanent supportive housing. The Commons is part of an 11-year effort to fill a gap in housing options for people with disabilities or experiencing homelessness.

**Partners**

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San Diego Foundation
San Diego COVID-19 Community Response Fund
San Diego, CA

Challenge
To address the communitywide impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Innovation
With financial support from across the community, the fund provided nonprofit organizations with “rolling rapid response grants” to address the needs of those disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Overview
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the foundation partnered with the County of San Diego to raise $65 million from more than 3,700 donors for its COVID-19 Community Response Fund. The partnership resulted in more than $58 million in grants “to help stabilize and bolster the nonprofit community.” More than 200 nonprofit partners have received grants, ensuring that vulnerable communities receive the support they need in the form of internet access, childcare, food security, financial assistance, medical support, workforce training, and other pandemic-related emergent needs.

Partners