Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis

Memphis HOPE

Launched: 2004
Public Partners: City of Memphis, Memphis Housing Authority, and Housing and Community Development.

The Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM) joined forces with the City of Memphis, the Memphis Housing Authority (MHA), and national nonprofit Urban Strategies to implement US Memphis HOPE, a model public-philanthropic partnership dedicated to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty for Memphians. Since 2004, the partnership has secured $88 million in grant funds under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOPE VI program for the community revitalization of three public housing locations – Lamar Terrace/University Place, Dixie Homes/Legends Park and Cleaborn Homes. The transformation of Memphis’ languishing public housing became the keynote project of this partnership.

WFGM raised and leveraged partnerships totaling more than $22.2 million in public and private resources over the past seven years to build a two-generation model for comprehensive community supportive services (CSS) for women and children. The supportive services component ensured that the nationally-recognized US Memphis HOPE initiative provided viable means and expandable approaches to neighborhood revitalization, while offering holistic wraparound services that produce measurable outcomes of employment and economic self-sufficiency.

Currently, US Memphis HOPE has increased the number of families supported from 700 in 2004 to nearly 3,000 public housing families of MHA housing communities. WFGM is the first women’s foundation in the nation to lead fundraising for a HUD HOPE VI human capital development.

Woman’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis: Founded in 2004, the foundation’s mission is to encourage philanthropy and foster leadership among women and support programs that enable women and children to reach their full potential. www.wfgm.org