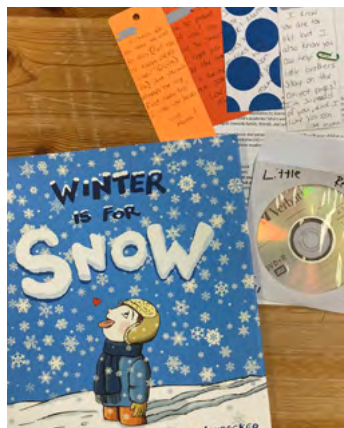


# 2024 Community Partnership Award

Recognizing People Working Together  
to Build Better Communities



“ Mutual of America is honored to recognize and support the 2024 Community Partnership Award-winning organizations as they lead the way in creating effective and lasting solutions that help those in need. Much like our clients working in the nonprofit community, Mutual of America is dedicated to having a direct, positive impact on society. ”

*Stephen J. Rich  
Chairman, CEO and President  
Mutual of America Financial Group*

# About Mutual of America Financial Group

**Mutual of America Financial Group** is a leading provider of retirement products, services and investments to employers, employees and individual investors. We deliver high-quality, innovative products and customized services at a competitive price, along with outstanding service and personalized financial education, to help customers build and preserve assets for a financially secure future. Our mission is built upon our values—integrity, discipline, reliability, excellence and social responsibility—which have guided us since 1945 and continue to serve us and our customers well. Mutual of America Financial Group is the trade name used by Mutual of America Life Insurance Company and its affiliates.

**We believe the power of community** can foster a healthier, more productive and more inclusive society. This strong sense of social responsibility is seen in our customer-first attitude and in the many ways that we care for and give back to the communities we serve throughout the United States. Together with the Mutual of America Foundation, our Company's philanthropic arm, we are working to shape a more promising future by helping to address some of the most pressing issues in the country today.

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## A Message from Stephen J. Rich

# Championing the Nonprofit Sector

### **There are nearly two million nonprofits in the United States today.**

These organizations play an enduring and pivotal role in helping to strengthen the fabric of our communities—from providing social services and supporting underrepresented individuals and families to shaping policy and driving social change.

At Mutual of America Financial Group, actively promoting the welfare of others is close to our heart. After all, the Company was founded 80 years ago as a result of a unique partnership among community-minded business leaders who were dedicated to supporting the nonprofit sector and believed that every worker deserves a financially secure and dignified retirement.

This shared purpose continues to drive Mutual of America forward as we provide retirement and investment solutions designed to help create better financial outcomes for our customers. Our strong sense of social responsibility can be best seen in our customer-first attitude and also the ways in which our Company and our employees proudly give back to the diverse communities we serve.

One such example is the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award. Created in 1996, this Award annually honors nonprofit organizations that are working in partnership with the public and private sectors to create communities where everyone is supported, empowered and thriving. Today, it has become one of the most prestigious and coveted national awards in the country.

**This year's winning programs were selected from more than 1,400 nonprofit organizations** that submitted an application to the Community Partnership Award competition. As you'll see on the pages that follow, these programs and the dedicated individuals leading them are achieving powerful and positive change in communities across America, every single day.

As our commitment to uplifting the lives of Americans across all walks of life continues, I am pleased to welcome Sara Wiencken as Chair of the Mutual of America Foundation. A veteran member of the Mutual of America team, Sara most recently served as our Vice President of Philanthropic Relations. She will play a key role in helping to create even more opportunities to emphasize the Foundation's impact in the years to come.

On behalf of all of us at Mutual of America, congratulations to the 2024 winners, and best wishes on their continued success.



Stephen J. Rich  
Chairman, CEO and President  
Mutual of America Financial Group



# Making a Measurable Impact

In a recent interview, Sara Wiencken, the Chair of the Mutual of America Foundation, reflected on the 2024 Community Partnership Award and how each winning organization is leading the way by driving meaningful change in their communities.

**Congratulations on being named Chair of the Mutual of America Foundation last year. Tell us a little about how you plan to guide the Community Partnership Award forward.**

**Sara Wiencken:** Thank you! I am so honored to be serving as Chair. 2024 was a year full of uncertainty, especially for nonprofit organizations across the country who face numerous challenges that can limit their ability to serve the people and communities that rely on them.

The thoughtful stewardship of the Foundation's charitable assets enables us to stand firm in our support of nonprofits that are working in partnership with the public and private sectors to create more equitable and thriving communities for all. Building on this strong foundation, we are laying the groundwork for deeper community impact. This includes doing more to empower nonprofits by offering them new opportunities to share best practices and leverage the collective wisdom they've gained working on the front lines of change.

**What can you tell us about this year's winning organizations?**

**Sara Wiencken:** The winners of the 2024 Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Awards are truly impressive.

Each one exemplifies the transformative power of partnership in providing individuals from all walks of life with new pathways to a better future. While their approaches to solving critical issues such as prison reform, housing, workforce training, homelessness, and protecting the rights of people with disabilities differ, you can clearly see why each is a standout program. We are honored to help them amplify their voices and elevate their impact.

It's always exciting for me to read about the winning programs through their applications and then have the opportunity to meet the individuals behind these partnerships when we tell them they've won. I am incredibly moved by their passion for the organizations they lead and the communities they serve. I always leave those interactions feeling inspired.

**The Honorable Mention Award category was renamed this year. What prompted this change?**

**Sara Wiencken:** Last year, we made the decision to give the Honorable Mention Award category a new name—the Social Impact Award. The reason for this is simple. Social Impact Award better reflects how our independent Selection Committee identifies potential winners and more strongly honors the meaningful effect they're having on the health and well-being of underserved and underestimated individuals in their communities.

As we step into 2025, I am proud to be part of a Company that is dedicated to using its experience and resources to help support and extend the work and impact of these essential nonprofit organizations.



**“The thoughtful stewardship of the Foundation's charitable assets enables us to stand firm in our support of nonprofits.”**

# About the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award

## The Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award was created in 1996.

Each year, we honor nonprofit organizations from across the country that are helping to move our nation forward by building healthier, more equitable communities. Now in its 29th year, this prestigious award encourages nonprofits that work in partnership with public, private and other social sector organizations to demonstrate:

1. The measurable impact their program is having on the communities it serves.
2. What they are doing to replicate and share their program for the benefit of other local communities.
3. How they are innovating new approaches to meeting new and evolving community needs.

An independent committee selects organizations to receive the following Community Partnership Award honors:

- **The Thomas J. Moran Award** is given to the national award-winning program and includes a documentary video about the program.
- **The Frances R. Hesselbein Award** is given to a partnership that is addressing social challenges and is also being replicated in more than one community.
- **The Social Impact Award** is given to a partnership whose program is making a positive difference in its community, and has the potential to scale to increase its impact.

Since its inception in 1996, the Community Partnership Award has recognized 268 partnerships from cities and towns across America. Like so many of our clients working in the nonprofit community, Mutual of America is dedicated to having a direct, positive impact on society.



**Members of Catalyst Kitchens, whose program was the 2023 national award winner**

## Two Visionaries Unite to Shine a Light on Nonprofits

Nearly three decades ago, Thomas Moran and Frances Hesselbein led the way, along with board members and leaders from various business and philanthropic sectors, in establishing the Community Partnership Award. To celebrate their significant and lasting contributions, the top two awards are named respectively in their honor.



**The Thomas J. Moran Award** is presented annually to the Mutual of America Foundation's Community Partnership Award national award-winning program. The eponymous award commemorates the lifetime achievements and personal generosity of Thomas Moran, who passed away in 2018 after serving as Chairman, President and CEO. During a distinguished 43-year career at the Company from 1975 to 2018, Mr. Moran championed the Community Partnership Award to recognize the extraordinary leadership of nonprofit organizations across the United States and to highlight the numerous contributions they make to society, in particular toward improving the lives of individuals most in need.



**The Frances R. Hesselbein Award** was created in 2022 in special recognition of Frances Hesselbein, who served on our Board and was an esteemed part of the Mutual of America family for more than 40 years. Her deep connection to the nonprofit community helped lead to the creation of the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award, on whose Selection Committee she served as a founding member until her passing in 2022. Ms. Hesselbein, who was awarded the Medal of Freedom in 1998 by President Bill Clinton, served as President and CEO of the Frances Hesselbein Leadership Forum at the University of Pittsburgh. She also served as CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA.



# Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison

## 2024 Thomas J. Moran Award Recipient

**Over 640,000 people** in the United States are released from prison each year, yet more than 40% of them are rearrested within their first year of release. As sobering as this statistic is, there is hope for a better outcome. Research shows that prison-based education programs offer the single most effective way to break the cycle of incarceration and intergenerational poverty.

**In 1998, Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison** (Hudson Link) launched a groundbreaking prison initiative that offers college education, life skills and reentry support to individuals during and after involvement with the justice system. What

began as one class of 16 men at Sing Sing Correctional Facility has grown to become a degree-granting program for more than 670 people in prisons across New York State.

**Today, Hudson Link partners with nine colleges and universities** to provide in-person and virtual courses at five New York State prisons and issues fully accredited associate and bachelor's degrees to those who complete their program. Hudson Link also leverages community organizations to provide wraparound services to almost 2,000 released alumni, whose recidivism rate is less than 2%. These include job readiness and professional development programs, as well as access to a dedicated case manager, transitional housing and free clothing.

## ORGANIZATION

Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, Inc.

## PROGRAM

Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison

## PARTNERS

- 5 New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision prisons
- 9 Colleges and Universities in New York State
- Several organizations providing wraparound services



► [Watch the documentary](#)

**The economic benefits** of Hudson Link's program alone are enormous. Hudson Link provides its degree-granting program for \$5,000 per student, per year—a cost that is 100% funded through private donations. It costs nearly \$60,000 a year to incarcerate one person in a New York State prison.

**“Education in prison opens doors** for incarcerated individuals to overcome their pasts, rebuild their lives and prepare to one day become productive members of their communities,” said Sean Pica, President of Hudson Link. “While most programs are offered directly by colleges, Hudson Link works as a third-party facilitator. The ability to link correctional facilities to degreed programs at accredited colleges across the state means we’re able to create programs in prisons across New York. It also means that Hudson Link can be easily replicated.”

# 670+

participants in New York State prisons

# 1,300+

college degrees awarded to date

# 70%

of Hudson Link staff are formerly incarcerated alumni of the program

“*After spending 20+ years incarcerated and never reading a book until then, I have earned two college degrees. I am grateful to Hudson Link for providing me with not only educational enrichment but also a chance to achieve something remarkable. My journey—from adolescence and incarceration to earning two degrees and now holding a leadership position at Hudson Link—illustrates the transformative power of education, even in the darkest circumstances.*”

—Eldredge Blalock  
Development Director  
Hudson Link



# Community Health

## 2024 Frances R. Hesselbein Award Recipient

**The ability to secure and maintain employment** is crucial to making a successful transition to adulthood. This is especially true for youth who are aging out of the foster care system and may not have the family support, hands-on work experience and life skills needed to become emotionally and financially self-sufficient. Not surprisingly, within four years of leaving foster care, 70% of these youth will be on government assistance, 50% will be unemployed and half will experience homelessness.

**iFoster, Inc. is a national, collaborative network** of more than 100,000 foster care agencies and their caregivers dedicated to ensuring that every child growing up outside

their biological home has the resources and opportunities they need to become successful, independent adults.

**In 2021, iFoster collaborated with Eisner Health** to establish Community Health. Through this pioneering AmeriCorps-based workforce-development program, iFoster pairs 100 youth (ages 16–21) who are transitioning out of foster care with 10-month job assignments at Eisner Health, one of the largest federally qualified community health centers (FQHCs) serving low-income residents in Los Angeles.

**Community Health participants** receive critical soft- and hard-skills training. They also gain paid work experience providing essential patient services, such as helping Eisner Health

## ORGANIZATION

iFoster, Inc.

## PROGRAM

Community Health

## PARTNER

Eisner Health



patients to access benefits, navigate resources and schedule appointments. They are given the opportunity to earn free certifications as Community Health Workers, Peer Specialists and Medical Assistants, and they are guaranteed interviews and permanent jobs after completing the program.

**“Community Health aims to interrupt cycles of poverty** by providing foster youth with a pathway to livable-wage jobs in public health that enable them to become self-sufficient and financially independent when they leave foster care,” said Serita Cox, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of iFoster, Inc. “With the increasing demand for healthcare personnel nationwide, our program could be easily expanded in other FQHCs nationwide. Recognizing the need to support young people in foster care, AmeriCorps recently commissioned iFoster to complete a study of how AmeriCorps might evolve their other workforce development programs to better engage foster youth.”

**“Eisner Health is excited to work with iFoster to launch the Community Health AmeriCorps program in Los Angeles. By leveraging Eisner Health’s extensive experience in providing quality healthcare services to underprivileged communities, we can collaboratively address the pressing public health needs of LA County while empowering foster youth to achieve living-wage public health careers.”**

—Monica Gutierrez-McCarthy  
Interim CEO and COO  
Eisner Health

# 642

youth graduated from the Community Health program

# 100

transition-age youth (ages 16–21) served annually through Community Health

# 2023

Excellence in AmeriCorps Award winner

- **Program is led** by a former foster youth



# Black Home Initiative

## 2024 Social Impact Award Recipient

**Homeownership is one of the foundational building blocks** for wealth creation, providing families with economic stability and an anchor to their community. However, the benefits of homeownership are not always available to everyone. Long-standing systemic inequities—from redlining and restrictive covenants to the limited supply of affordable housing in low-income neighborhoods—continue to challenge Black families and other people of color in achieving their dream of owning a home.

**Civic Commons is driving transformational change** to promote racial justice. In 2021, Civic Commons launched Black Home Initiative (BHI), a multi-county network of 100+ partner organizations from every area of the affordable housing market. BHI targets racial inequities at the core of the housing

ecosystem to help ensure that the opportunity to own a home is available to all low- and moderate-income Black households in the metro Seattle-Tacoma area who want one.

**With a goal to generate 1,500 new Black homeowners** in Greater Seattle by 2028 and 3,000 by 2033, BHI's Policy Network mobilized 120 advocates who were instrumental in the Washington State Legislature's passing of the Covenant Homeownership Act. This crucial piece of legislation provides up to \$100 million in closing costs and down-payment assistance for those impacted by racially restrictive covenants. BHI has also initiated programs that provide low-interest development loans for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) housing developers, funding for BIPOC-run nonprofits that support Black homeownership

## ORGANIZATION

Civic Commons

## PROGRAM

Black Home Initiative

## PARTNERS

- Rainier Beach Action Coalition
- HomeSight
- LISC Puget Sound
- Umpqua Bank



and a debt reduction fund that provides grants up to \$25,000 to help potential homebuyers pay off debts that might otherwise limit mortgage acquisition.

**“The strength of BHI comes from the unique way** we leverage the incredible knowledge and collective muscle of our partners to build more rungs on the homeownership ladder,” said Michael Brown, Chief Architect at Civic Commons. “Communities across the country are looking to replicate our program and our successes. We’re committed to sharing what we’ve learned about network-weaving and its power to achieve outcomes far greater than any one entity could achieve alone.”

**“ I hear people talking about BHI who weren’t talking about racial disparities and homeownership five or 10 years ago. BHI has been a way for groups and organizations to come together to ask, ‘What could we do together that would be more than any one entity or group could do on its own?’ ”**

—Banking and real estate executive  
and BHI Partner

# 1,578

affordable housing units in development

# Up to \$25,000

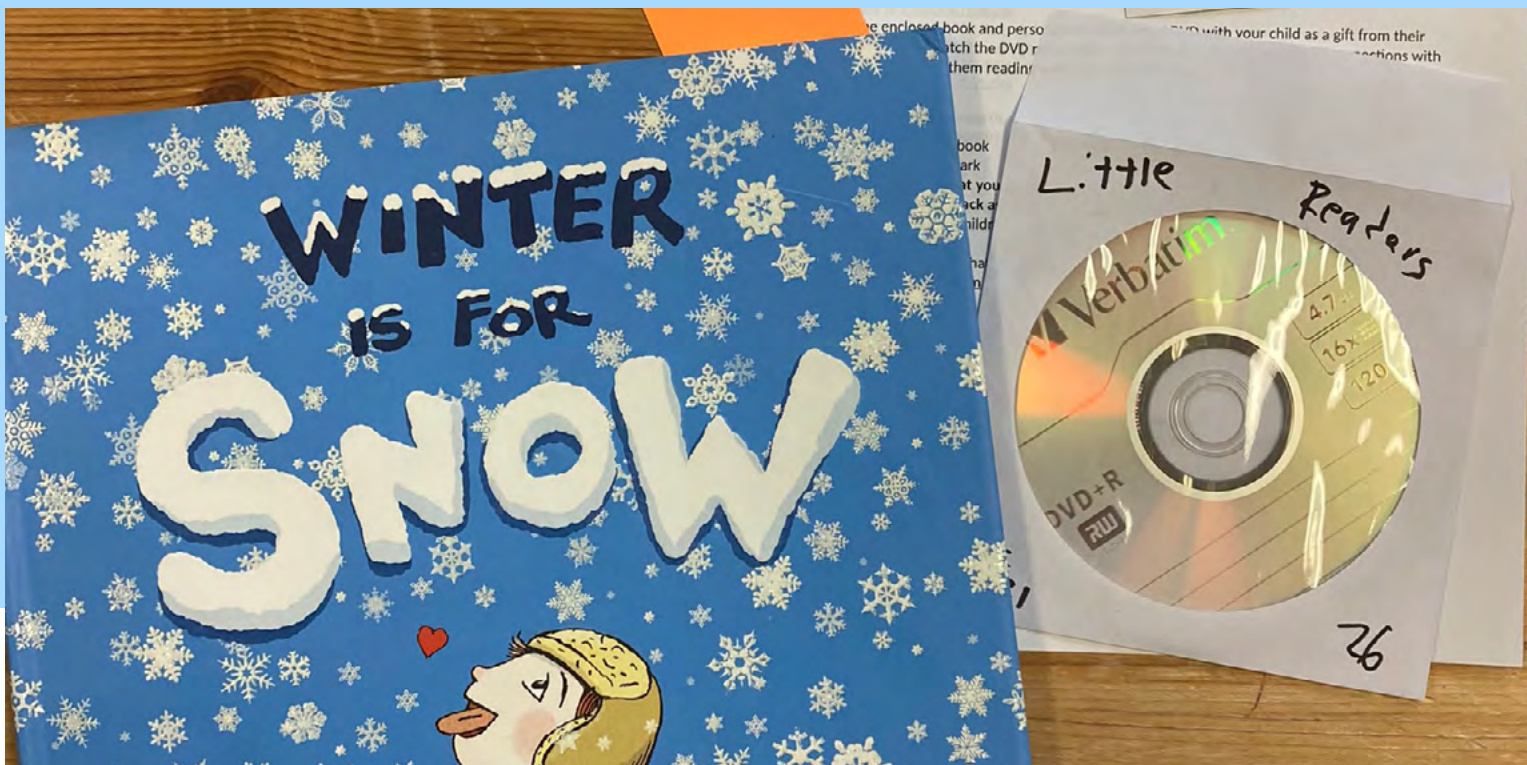
in debt-reduction grants for potential homeowners

# \$578,000

awarded to BIPOC-run nonprofits supporting Black homeownership

## • Led passage

of nation’s first Covenant Homeownership Act



# Little Readers

## 2024 Social Impact Award Recipient

**More than half of the 2.3 million men and women incarcerated** in the United States are parents of children under the age of 18. For those individuals, parenting from prison can seem nearly impossible. Not only do they miss out on many of their child's or grandchild's "firsts," but they also don't get to experience smaller moments, such as sharing a bedtime story.

**HeartBound Ministries was founded in 2003 to transform** the prison community through programs and resources that shift the culture from one of crime and incarceration to one of hope and restoration. Through its Little Readers program, HeartBound is helping to repair and strengthen family bonds by uniting parents in prison and their children through video and the power of storytelling.

**With guidance from HeartBound-trained facilitators**, parents and grandparents choose a book from a collection of new, age-appropriate children's books and have themselves videotaped reading the book aloud. HeartBound then sends the child or grandchild a DVD of the recording along with a copy of the book, a personalized bookmark and other literary resources at no cost to the family.

**Created initially for Georgia state prisons** through an innovative partnership with the Department of Corrections, Little Readers is now available in all 33 Georgia prisons as well as in facilities in Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi. To date, more than 13,000 children and over 6,000 justice-involved adults have participated in the program. Thousands more

## ORGANIZATION

HeartBound Ministries

## PROGRAM

Little Readers

## PARTNERS

- Georgia Department of Corrections
- Mississippi Department of Corrections
- The Next Door



have benefited from the 73 literacy carts filled with children's books, educational resources, games and art supplies that HeartBound places in prison visitation rooms.

**“Countless studies have uncovered the cognitive and behavioral benefits** of being read aloud to as a child. Little Readers leverages the power of literacy by providing children with a way to see, hear and learn from their father or mother at a distance. This can help children to overcome the trauma of separation and thrive academically even when a parent or grandparent is incarcerated. We're excited to bring Little Readers to even more facilities in the years ahead,” said Andrea Shelton, Founder and Executive Director of HeartBound Ministries.

**“My girls loved the first time they got the DVD. They played it over and over again, reading the books aloud also. When I found out what they were doing, I was filled with tears of happiness. Thank you so much!”**

—Inmate mother

# 6,000+

justice-involved adults have participated

# 13,000+

children have been reached

# 73

literacy carts reach thousands more parents and children



# St. Jude Centers

## Permanent Supportive Housing for the Homeless

### 2024 Social Impact Award Recipient

**More people in the United States experienced homelessness** last year than at any time since 2007, when the federal government began counting people who are living unsheltered. While homelessness across the country grew by 18% from 2023 levels, a recent government report found that there were some bright spots—notably in Dallas, Texas, where the number of people who are experiencing homelessness declined by 16% over the last two years.

**Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc. (CCD) has been opening its doors** to those in need of shelter and a fresh opportunity for nearly 80 years. Today, it serves more than 200,000 people annually through programs that span 11 mission areas, including homelessness, housing, hunger, healthcare, and financial stability and career services.

In 2017, CCD embarked on a unique partnership to create St. Jude Centers (SJC), an innovative program that provides permanent supportive housing for people who have been chronically homeless.

**Catholic Housing Initiative (CHI), the City of Dallas and Dallas County** have provided funding for SJC. To date, they've helped to purchase three formerly crime-ridden or vacant hotels and facilities and transform them into nearly 450 units of single-room efficiency apartments. While CHI owns the properties, CCD provides property management services and coordinates with other community partners to deliver voluntary wraparound services for SJC residents.

## ORGANIZATION

Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc.

## PROGRAM

St. Jude Centers—Permanent Supportive Housing for the Homeless

## PARTNERS

- Catholic Housing Initiative
- City of Dallas
- Dallas County



**“With the support of our partners, SJC is helping to break the cycle of homelessness in Greater Dallas. More than 80% of SJC clients have remained permanently housed on our properties, with the vast majority of them housed for more than a year,”** said David Woodyard, President and CEO of CCD. “By taking neglected buildings and transforming them into safe and affordable housing for our community’s most vulnerable citizens, SJC is also helping to boost the health and strength of our city. It’s a proven model that we believe can be easily replicated across the country.”

**“ I got to move into the St. Jude Center and was able to get a roof over my head, a nice warm bed, my own private bathroom, my own TV and peace of mind. I [also] got case management from Catholic Charities, which helped me a lot. ”**

—Resident  
St. Jude Centers

# 445+

formerly homeless adults provided with permanent supportive housing

# 4

permanent supportive housing communities created, with expansion planned

# >80%

of residents remained housed in 2024



# The Tennessee Center for Decision-Making Support

## 2024 Social Impact Award Recipient

**For most people, decision-making** is an effortless daily activity. For individuals living with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), this can be a challenge. Yet, the ability to make decisions about everyday needs and future plans, such as where to live and how to manage finances, medications and healthcare needs, can have a tremendous impact on a person's well-being and ability to live independently.

**For more than 75 years,** The Arc has been the leading advocacy organization for people with IDD and their families. A membership organization with 15 chapters across the state, The Arc Tennessee provides information, services, resources and support that empower children and adults with IDD to lead full and meaningful lives in their communities.

**In 2020, The Arc Tennessee collaborated** with Tennessee's Council on Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights Tennessee to create the Tennessee Center for Decision-Making Support (CDMS), a groundbreaking initiative that enables individuals with IDD to make choices about their lives with support from loved ones and others they know and trust. Recently, The Arc Tennessee expanded its program to include individuals facing mental illness, Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

**CDMS leverages LifeCourse Nexus's Decision-Making Support Tool,** a groundbreaking questionnaire designed to help people living with disabilities to understand where they need or want support and who can help and how, as well as to identify services that can enable them to live as independently as possible.

## ORGANIZATION

The Arc Tennessee

## PROGRAM

The Tennessee Center for Decision-Making Support

## PARTNERS

- Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Disability Rights Tennessee
- LifeCourse Nexus
- Tennessee Department of Disability and Aging



As such, it offers a much-needed, less restrictive alternative to guardianship and other legal interventions.

**“The CDMS is dedicated to protecting the rights** of our most vulnerable community members to choose how they want to live,” said Dr. Robbie Faulkner, Executive Director of The Arc Tennessee. “Recently, we collaborated with Rhode Island Disability Rights and the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities because of their desire to replicate our program in their states. We’ve also been asked to present our model at national conferences and other events to demonstrate how organizations can help drive system change on behalf of individuals living with IDD and other disabilities.”

# 19,000

new users of CDMS services

# 513

consultations provided to individuals with IDD

# 150+

presentations reaching 3,300+ people

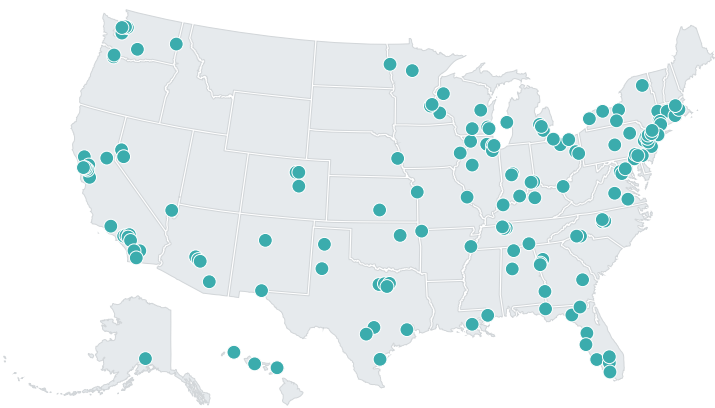
**“The Tennessee Center for Decision-Making Support has been an invaluable resource for our patients and our interdisciplinary team at Kramer Davis Health. The CDMS’s plain-language educational materials and experts, who can assist patients and caregivers in identifying the right level of support, are highly utilized.”**

—Michelle Bagby, M.A., LBA, BCBA  
Crisis and Community Dept. Head  
Kramer Davis Health

# Leveraging Partnerships for Greater Impact

Each year, the Community Partnership Award honors nonprofit organizations that leverage partnerships with public and private organizations in order to scale their transformative solutions to critical social challenges, within their communities and beyond.

The 2024 award winners were selected from a competitive pool of more than 1,400 programs that participated in the application process. Together, they represent a wide variety of innovative, results-oriented organizations that are driving measurable change in their communities. They join a growing list of Community Partnership Award winners that are forging new pathways to healthier, more equitable communities for all.



**“The 2024 Community Partnership Award-winning programs exemplify the spirit of partnership and innovation that drives meaningful change in communities across the country. Their work is transformative for the individuals and families they serve and a model for how sectors can come together to create beneficial change.”**

—Sara Wiencken  
Chair, Mutual of America Foundation

161

Cities and towns across the United States with organizations whose programs have received the Community Partnership Award.

42

States, plus the District of Columbia, represented by organizations whose programs have received the Community Partnership Award.

## A Holistic Focus

Over the past 29 years, the Community Partnership Award has recognized a diverse group of nonprofit organizations in the United States whose inspiring programs are tackling critical social issues, including:

Antibullying	Family Support	Mental Health	Substance Abuse
Child Abuse	Grief Support	Poverty	Teen Counseling
Community Development	Healthcare	Prison Reform	Veteran Care
Disabilities	Homelessness	Public Safety	Violence Prevention
Domestic Violence	Housing	Racial Equality	Women’s Empowerment
Education	Human Trafficking	Refugee Care	Women’s Health
Elder Care	Hunger Prevention	Sexual Violence	Workforce Development
Employment	Inmate Rehabilitation	Special-Needs Inclusion	Youth

# Past Winners: What They're Saying

The Mutual of America Foundation is pleased to know that the Community Partnership Award and documentary videos we produce serve as valuable tools in the respective missions of organizations nationwide, helping them to educate and provide models of coordinated action for others to emulate.

**“** *The growth and current success of Catalyst Kitchens, and our ability to support our members, would not have been possible without the support of Mutual of America and the Community Partnership Award. It offered us sustainability at a critical time through their funding, visibility in a way we didn't think possible thanks to the documentary, and the confidence to pursue our mission boldly.”*

—Justin Smith  
Executive Director  
Catalyst Kitchens  
2023: Catalyst Kitchens

**“** *It is truly an honor for the 100 Scholars Robotics Alliance to be recognized with the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award. We are grateful for the opportunity to amplify our organization's commitment to reaching students of color in at-risk communities through mentoring and education.”*

—Louis Negron  
Executive Director  
100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.  
2020: 100 Scholars Robotics Alliance

**“** *Winning the Community Partnership Award was such an honor for Patriot PAWS, our Veterans and the inmate Trainers in our prison programs. With this award, we are more able to fund and expand our amazing prison programs, enabling inmate Trainers to forge a new path with the skills they learn and to rejoin society with new purpose and pride. The Community Partnership Award will change the lives of our brave Veterans and those who society has given up on.”*

—Lori Stevens  
Founder and Executive Director  
Patriot PAWS Service Dogs  
2022: Patriot PAWS Prison Training Program

**“** *Recognition from the Community Partnership Award and the video has allowed Humanim to continue to highlight our mission and our work of improving neighborhoods across Baltimore.”*

—Cindy Plavier-Truitt  
President and CEO  
Humanim, Inc.  
2018: Baltimore City Deconstruction Project

**“** *We are thankful to Mutual of America for capturing through video the importance of our work of ensuring that all survivors of human trafficking have access to trauma-informed services when seeking medical attention.”*

—Kay Buck  
Chief Executive Officer  
CAST  
2019: Survivor Advocate Program

**“** *The Community Partnership Award helped put a spotlight on the therapeutic value of adaptive sports and brought our message to the national stage.”*

—Nico Marcolongo  
Operation Rebound Program Manager  
Challenged Athletes Foundation  
2012: Operation Rebound

# Past National Award-Winning Programs

**Since 1996, the diverse and prestigious group of Community Partnership Award winners continues to make a positive impact on society every day.**

Rooted in empathy and a commitment to partnering with public, private and other social sector organizations, these remarkable nonprofits are tackling an array of issues through a variety of successful, innovative approaches. In doing so, they are providing opportunity and hope to many. We are thankful for their contributions. Following is a quick look at the crucial work being achieved by each of the past 28 national award-winning programs.

**2023**

## **Catalyst Kitchens**

Catalyst Kitchens  
Seattle, WA

Catalyst Kitchens is a national member network of nonprofit organizations that are committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by providing tuition-free culinary training and job placement for individuals who may be facing barriers to employment. Together, Catalyst Kitchens and its members are creating new pathways for lifting vulnerable individuals out of poverty and unemployment while also relieving hunger in their communities.



**2022**

## **Patriot PAWS Prison Training Program**

Patriot PAWS Service Dogs  
Rockwall, TX



In 2018, Patriot PAWS Service Dogs partnered with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to enlist the help of inmates in raising and training service dogs for veterans who have suffered debilitating injury or illness while in service to our country. As a result of this program, more of our nation's heroes have access to a service dog that can help them regain lost independence and emotional stability.

**2021**

## **The Nathaniel Project**

Center for Alternative Sentencing &  
Employment Services (CASES)  
Brooklyn, NY



The Nathaniel Project was established in 2000 by CASES to increase public safety through innovative services that reduce crime and incarceration, improve behavioral health, promote recovery and rehabilitation and create opportunities for success. The Nathaniel Project is New York City's first alternative-to-incarceration program for adults with serious mental illness who are facing prison as the result of felony charges.



**2020**  
**100 Scholars Robotics Alliance**  
 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.  
 Atlanta, GA

100 Scholars Robotics Alliance was created by 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc., and various partners to help African American youth in underserved school districts excel in the classroom and build life skills. This groundbreaking after-school and summer program provides students opportunities to thrive in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.



**2019**  
**Survivor Advocate Program**  
 Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)  
 Los Angeles, CA

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking is confronting human trafficking, one of the most devastating human rights issues facing our country and the world. Through its Survivor Advocate Program, CAST embeds a trained professional, who is also a trafficking survivor, in partnering hospitals to improve the support that is offered when a victim of human trafficking seeks medical attention. In doing so, the program is empowering these individuals to rebuild their lives after years of captivity and abuse and to turn their exploitation into an opportunity for advocacy to end human trafficking forever.



**2018**  
**Baltimore City Deconstruction Project**  
 Humanim, Inc.  
 Baltimore, MD

The Baltimore City Deconstruction Project employs a new model of multidisciplinary problem-solving to transform once-blighted blocks of dilapidated, vacant houses in Baltimore's inner city into thriving green spaces. They're doing this not by clogging landfills with demolition debris but by hiring and training local residents, many of whom were formerly incarcerated, to take apart these buildings, piece by piece, and then salvage the bricks and boards for resale.



**2017**  
**Evans Community Partnership School**  
 Children's Home Society of Florida  
 Orlando, FL

The Evans Community Partnership School uses a transformative "no wrong door" delivery model to provide a range of social services. This includes on-site medical and dental services, mental-health and counseling programs, after-school enrichment and mentoring, and transportation and meals aimed at raising the academic ground floor and empowering students to succeed. Today, the school has 15 agencies working collaboratively to strengthen the community by creating opportunities for students and their families to reach their full potential.



**2016**  
**East Harlem**  
**Center for Living and Learning**  
 DREAM  
 New York, NY

DREAM's (formerly known as Harlem RBI) East Harlem Center for Living and Learning originated from DREAM's need for school facilities and the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) interest in increasing low-income housing in the neighborhood. The center includes a 450-seat public charter school, where 50% of kindergarten seats are reserved for students living in NYCHA residences; after-school and summer program space that serves more than 1,800 kids each year; 89 units of affordable housing; a revitalized public park and community space; and ongoing job opportunities for local residents.



**2015**  
**Waikiki Health's PATH Clinic**  
 Waikiki Health  
 Honolulu, HI

Waikiki Health's PATH Clinic is Hawaii's only comprehensive obstetrics/gynecology clinic that specifically addresses the often-complex needs of pregnant and parenting women with current or past addiction challenges. It provides primary medical care, smoking cessation programs, childcare and social services, all in an environment that is nonjudgmental and compassionate.



**2014**  
**Surgery Weekend Program**  
 Fresh Start Surgical Gifts  
 Carlsbad, CA

At Fresh Start Surgical Gifts, an all-volunteer team of world-class surgeons, dentists and other medical providers is transforming the lives of disadvantaged children with physical deformities through the extraordinary gift of reconstructive surgery, dental care and other health-related services. These ongoing services are provided through Fresh Start's Surgery Weekend program, a first-of-its-kind partnership with Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego.



**2013**  
**Prison Puppies**  
 Leader Dogs for the Blind  
 Rochester Hills, MI

Prison Puppies pairs future Leader Dogs with model prisoners who have demonstrated that they can be trusted to provide 24/7 care to a seven-week-old puppy through its first year of life. These Leader Dogs not only provide greater independence, safety and self-worth to their blind or visually impaired clients but also give the inmates who cared for them a sense of pride and gratitude for the chance to give back to the community.



**2012**  
**Operation Rebound**  
 Challenged Athletes Foundation  
 San Diego, CA

Operation Rebound uses the healing power of sports as a path to recovery for active-duty service members, veterans and first responders who have suffered life-changing injuries as a result of their service. Operation Rebound has helped injured service members to reactivate their competitive spirit and pursue goals as big as competing in the Paralympics and as important as being able to chase their children around the block.



**2010**  
**Getting Out and Staying Out**  
 Getting Out and Staying Out (GOSO)  
 New York, NY

Through its partnership with the New York City Department of Correction and the New York City Board of Education, Getting Out and Staying Out (GOSO) helps incarcerated men between the ages of 18 and 24 earn their GEDs and focus on life skills and possible career paths to better their chances of success once released. Fewer than 15% of the released inmates GOSO has worked with have recidivated.



**2008**  
**Family Eviction Prevention Collaborative**  
 Catholic Charities CYO  
 San Francisco, CA

Since its inception in 2007, the Family Eviction Prevention Collaborative—comprising Catholic Charities CYO, Homeless Prenatal Program, Hamilton Family Center and Compass Community Services—has helped thousands of San Francisco families avoid homelessness by providing rental assistance to stave off eviction and to help those in shelters or substandard housing find permanent homes.



**2006**  
**New Jersey SEEDS Scholars Program**  
 New Jersey SEEDS  
 Newark, NJ

Every year, the New Jersey SEEDS Scholars Program selects over 100 inner-city students to attend rigorous Saturday and summer classes in academic subjects as well as leadership training. Students who complete the program receive full financial aid at one of over 100 independent secondary schools across the country that are partners with the program.



**2004**  
**StreetWorks Collaborative**  
 Freeport West, Inc.  
 Minneapolis, MN

StreetWorks is a collaborative of 13 organizations in Minneapolis and St. Paul that have pooled their resources and developed a coordinated response to help homeless youth get the help they need. StreetWorks' outreach workers offer homeless youth everyday necessities for life on the street and distribute referral cards from agencies in the collaborative for those who want further help.



**2011**  
**College Possible Access and Success Partnership**  
 College Possible  
 Saint Paul, MN

College Possible helps break down the barriers that often keep economically disadvantaged youth from getting into college and earning a degree. Using AmeriCorps members as coaches, College Possible provides intensive ACT/SAT preparation, college admission and financial aid consulting, college transition guidance at the high-school level and a program to help college seniors as they prepare to graduate and join the workforce.



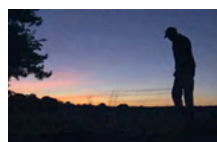
**2009**  
**Barbara McInnis House: Medical Respite Care Program**  
 Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program  
 Boston, MA

Most of us rely on the support of family or a visiting nurse when recovering from surgery, illness or injury. Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program's Barbara McInnis House: Medical Respite Care Program is a 104-bed facility that provides 24-hour medical care for homeless patients who are too sick for a shelter or the street but not in need of an extensive hospital stay.



**2007**  
**Project Success**  
 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.  
 Atlanta, GA

Project Success is a partnership between 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc., and Atlanta Public Schools. This wide-ranging enrichment and mentoring program for students has grown to include programs in 19 Atlanta public schools. Project Success has energized Atlanta, helping thousands of children realize their potential for leadership and success.



**2005**  
**Hope for Veterans® Transitional Housing Program**  
 Community Hope, Inc.  
 Lyons, NJ

The Hope for Veterans Transitional Housing Program offers transitional housing in Lyons, New Jersey, for up to 75 homeless, honorably discharged veterans. The partnership provides up to two years of group and individual therapy, case management services, access to psychiatric services, and a professional program of substance-abuse counseling and vocational services.



**2003**  
**An Achievable Dream**  
 An Achievable Dream, Inc.  
 Newport News, VA

An Achievable Dream is a year-round program in academic, social and moral education for underserved children in grades K-12. The program has succeeded by approaching the achievement gap from many different angles: extending the school day and year, providing food and healthcare and stressing character development and social skills. Partners include the local sheriff's office and business community, and a U.S. Army facility.



**2002**  
**Clubs Go to College**  
 Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford, Inc.  
 Hartford, CT

In Clubs Go to College, two Hartford institutions have realized their common goal: to provide children and young adults with opportunities to develop physically, morally and intellectually. The Boys and Girls Clubs offer sports, art and computer facilities, and the children have access to Trinity College events and facilities as well as student volunteers, who serve as positive role models and friends.



**2000**  
**Prisoner and Family Ministry Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives**  
 Lutheran Social Services of Illinois  
 Des Plaines, IL

Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives is a partnership of the Prisoner and Family Ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, the Illinois Department of Corrections and Habitat for Humanity International. This program trains prisoners to construct homes for Habitat for Humanity families. It has served hundreds of inmates and families, offering valuable lessons in both home-building and community-building.



**1998**  
**Kinship Support Network**  
 Edgewood Center for Children and Families  
 San Francisco, CA

The Kinship Support Network supports grandparents and other relatives of children who've lost a parent through death, abandonment, abuse or neglect. The Network provides guardians with support groups, mentors and educational workshops as well as access to a range of services, including healthcare, case management, community resources and housing opportunities.



**1996**  
**Community Internship Program**  
 Henry Street Settlement  
 New York, NY

In this partnership, United Parcel Service (UPS) sends its managers to the Henry Street Settlement to learn about inner-city life. Managers visit homebound seniors, teach job skills and deliver food to the homeless while learning about the diversity of their workers and the people they serve. The Henry Street Settlement learns how the corporate world solves its problems.



**2001**  
**Zone-Based Advocacy**  
 Women's Center and Shelter  
 of Greater Pittsburgh  
 Pittsburgh, PA

Zone-Based Advocacy brings together the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S), the City of Pittsburgh Police Department and the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office in a coordinated response to the needs of domestic violence victims. WC&S advocates work to prevent future violence, helping victims understand their options, including counseling and shelter.



**1999**  
**AI Sigl Center Partnership**  
 AI Sigl Center for Rehabilitation Agencies, Inc.  
 Rochester, NY

This partnership of individual agencies works together to help people with disabilities live fuller, more independent lives. The AI Sigl Center is the resource agency, managing real estate for programs, coordinating shared services, raising charitable contributions and expanding public awareness of the needs of people with disabilities, thereby freeing the partner agencies to focus on serving their clients.



**1997**  
**"A Level Playing Field," A Program for At-Risk Children**  
 Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs, Inc.  
 (ACORN Clinic)  
 Brookier, FL

"A Level Playing Field" assigns students of medicine, nursing and dentistry from the University of Florida to elementary schools, community centers and the ACORN Clinic to provide basic dental care, immunizations and a range of other health services to children in low-income rural communities in Florida.

# Independent Oversight

Winners of the Community Partnership Award are selected by an independent committee that is separate from the Mutual of America Foundation. Members of the committee are chosen for their breadth of experience, excellent judgment and, above all, their commitment to addressing important issues facing communities across the United States.

The Selection Committee reviews completed applications and then meets to assess each program against the Community Partnership Award selection criteria. Because the committee works as a group, the decision on each Community Partnership Award applicant represents a collective judgment drawn from the insights and perspectives of each of its members.

**2024 Selection Committee Members**

**William F. Baker, Ph.D.**  
Claudio Aquaviva Distinguished  
Professor of Education  
Fordham University

**George E. Barker**  
Former CEO New York City Division  
American Cancer Society, Inc.

**Susan N. Dreyfus**  
President  
Dreyfus Consulting

**Kris Kim**  
Former Chief Operating Officer  
American Cancer Society, Inc.

**Thomas Von Essen**  
Former Commissioner  
New York City Fire Department

## Selection Committee Members, All-Time (1996–2024)

<b>William F. Baker, Ph.D.</b> 2011–Present	<b>Kris Kim</b> 2024–Present
<b>George E. Barker</b> 2009–Present	<b>LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. MD</b> 1996–2018
<b>Richard Boyle</b> 1996–2005	<b>Mary Ann Quaranta</b> 1996–2008
<b>Honorable Hugh Carey</b> 1996–2011	<b>Francis Schott</b> 2006–2013
<b>Richard J. Ciecka</b> 2005, 2007	<b>Andrew D. Sens</b> 2012–2021
<b>Susan N. Dreyfus</b> 2020–Present	<b>Stanley Shmishkiss</b> 1998–2005
<b>Dudley H. Hafner</b> 1996–2018	<b>O. Stanley Smith, Jr.</b> 2004–2006
<b>Carla Harris</b> 2014–2023	<b>Thomas Von Essen</b> 2017–Present
<b>Frances R. Hesselbein</b> 1996–2022	<b>Elie Wiesel</b> 1996–2016
<b>William Kahn</b> 2006–2010	

# Directory

## 2024 Award-Winning Programs

### **Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison**

Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, Inc.  
23 State Street  
Ossining, NY 10562

914.941.0794  
[hudsonlink.org](http://hudsonlink.org)

Sean Pica  
President  
[spica@hudsonlink.org](mailto:spica@hudsonlink.org)

### **Community Health**

iFoster, Inc.  
10049 Martis Valley Road  
Truckee, CA 96161

855.936.7837  
[ifoster.org](http://ifoster.org)

Serita Cox  
Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder  
[serita@ifoster.org](mailto:serita@ifoster.org)

### **Black Home Initiative**

Civic Commons  
1601 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 1900  
Seattle, WA 98101

206.622.2294  
[civic-commons.org](http://civic-commons.org)

Michael Brown  
Chief Architect  
[m.brown@civic-commons.org](mailto:m.brown@civic-commons.org)

### **Little Readers**

HeartBound Ministries  
119 Bowling Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37205

404.822.4224  
[heartboundministries.com](http://heartboundministries.com)

Andrea Shelton  
Executive Director and Founder  
[ahheartbound@comcast.net](mailto:ahheartbound@comcast.net)

### **St. Jude Centers—Permanent Supportive Housing for the Homeless**

Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc.  
1421 West Mockingbird Lane  
Dallas, TX 75247

866.223.7500  
[ccdallas.org](http://ccdallas.org)

David Woodyard  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
[dwoodyard@ccdallas.org](mailto:dwoodyard@ccdallas.org)

### **The Tennessee Center for Decision-Making Support (CDMS)**

The Arc Tennessee  
545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 100  
Nashville, TN 37228

615.248.5878  
[thearctn.org](http://thearctn.org)

Dr. Robbie Faulkner  
Executive Director  
[rfaulkner@thearctn.org](mailto:rfaulkner@thearctn.org)



Retirement Services • Investments

320 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10022-6839  
[mutualofamerica.com](http://mutualofamerica.com)  
800.468.3785



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