



The Greater Clark Foundation

AMBITION FOR A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE GREATER CLARK FOUNDATION AWARDS MORE THAN \$170,000 IN BUILDING TRUST AND BELONGING GRANT INITIATIVE

Nine organizations will participate in a year-long learning cohort while implementing trust and belonging community projects.

Winchester, Ky. (January 24, 2024) – Today, the Greater Clark Foundation (GCF) announces awards totaling \$174,000 to community organizations impacting Clark, Estill, and Powell counties and the Commonwealth at large through a new Building Trust and Belonging (BTB) initiative. GCF reviewed a competitive application pool to ultimately fund nine organizations. The proposal and review process created space for applicants to explore unlikely partnerships, consider how to bring people together across differences, and begin envisioning a new future for their community.

The nine grant recipients include Art of the Rural/KY Rural-Urban Exchange, City of Winchester, Clark County Community Services, Clark County Equity Coalition, Estill County - 21 Century Inc (EPIC), Legacy Greenscapes, Poynterville Steering Committee, ProudTown, Inc., and Red Oaks Center for Nature and the Arts Inc. The selected grantees reflect a strong sense of curiosity, a willingness to build trust in diverse environments, and a commitment to capacity building through their work.

In addition to grant funding, the Building Trust and Belonging Learning Cohort, comprised of leaders from each funded organization, will work alongside the grantees through 2024. The Cohort will further explore the complex issues of trust and belonging through co-learning, discussion, critical thinking, and cultural awareness. From this experience, Cohort members will foster and nurture trusted relationships as critical elements of strong communities.

The Building Trust and Belonging initiative is a call-to-action for community leaders and citizens who are passionate about improving our quality of life and relationships. “To effectively make change in the Commonwealth, we believe in funding initiatives that are participatory, strategic, and future-oriented,” said Jen Algire, GCF president and chief executive officer. “Building trust is both the foundation and the key to stronger relationships within communities.”

Trust building is a complex process of stepping outside oneself, learning from others, and building empathy. The Greater Clark Foundation looks forward to learning alongside this grantee cohort and will share lessons from the BTB initiative and any future work in trust and belonging on their website and social media.

About the Greater Clark Foundation

The Greater Clark Foundation, located in Winchester, Ky., has an Ambition for a Vibrant Community. The Foundation is working to stimulate a community identity in the Greater Clark Region that is forward leaning, self-sustaining, engaged, and resilient. Its investments are focused on civic and economic vitality; educational attainment; and health, well-being and quality of life. GCF acts as a catalyst, connector, and convener to create the conditions in which all people can thrive. Visit www.clarkambition.org for more information.

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