




Flint Kids Fund
flintkids.org

2018 IMPACT REPORT

INVESTING IN FLINT KIDS



 n May 13, 2016, the Community Foundation of Greater Flint established the Foundation for Flint as a supporting organization to assist in Flint's recovery from the water crisis. A 501(c)3 public charity, the Foundation for Flint raises and distributes resources to serve the long-term health and development needs of Flint children and their families through the Flint Kids Fund.

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Pictured on the Cover:

YOUSIF ABBAS

International Academy of Flint Student

ANEeya GRANT

*International Academy
of Flint Student*

INVESTING IN FLINT KIDS




The story of the Flint Kids Fund began three years ago when a state of emergency was declared in Flint, Michigan, in response to the city's lead in water crisis. Within days, donors from all walks of life responded with concern and empathy for the residents of Flint, especially the children.



Through no fault of their own, our children were exposed to a toxic chemical in their drinking water. We are now three years into the recovery, and your gift to the Flint Kids Fund is an investment in their future. Look at the faces of Flint children in this year's report and you'll see the strong return on your investment!

When the water crisis hit, our children were already facing adverse childhood experiences. Today, thanks to people like you, they are settling into new learning opportunities while their parents and caregivers access an array of new resources. Trust is slowly rebuilding, and the community is moving from crisis to recovery.

The Flint Kids Fund is the tomorrow fund, meant to follow this cohort of youth into young adulthood. The trauma of the Flint water crisis requires long term recovery grounded in the science of child development. Your investments made today will help ensure a more promising future for tomorrow. Thank you for being part of our recovery.

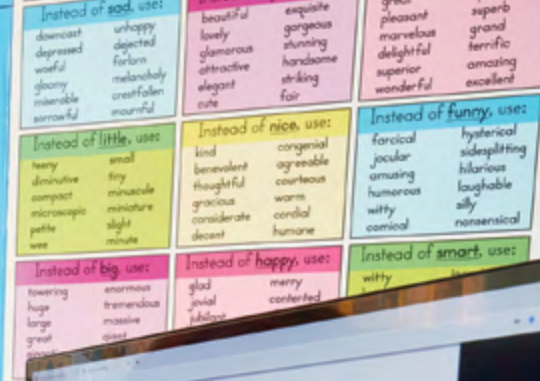


Isaiah M. Oliver

Isaiah Oliver, *President and CEO*
Community Foundation of Greater Flint

Bobby Mukkamala

Bobby Mukkamala, M.D.
Chair, Foundation for Flint



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

Mary Heron assists Destiny Freeman with new computer skills.

FLINT DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOCUSES ON IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN

On a cold winter's evening, the Flint Development Center is bursting with activity, hosting a game night for youth including a visit from Paw Patrol's Chase. Children from all ages were busy making slime, learning new games, dancing, and enjoying each other's company.

This is the new Flint Development Center, the former Bunche Elementary School renovated as a centerpiece of place-based activity in north Flint. A \$53,200 grant from the Flint Kids Fund supports programming at the new digital library and literacy laboratory, which serves over 100 children and families.

Mary Heron serves as lead literacy coach. The retired Carman Ainsworth elementary educator is passionate about this new phase in her life, assisting children and families with literacy skills, and boosting school and job readiness. "I'm making a difference and doing what's right for kids," Heron says. "Teaching that long, I was ready for something different."

Working on computer skills with 5-year-old Destiny Freeman, Heron comments on the progress she has made in the literacy laboratory. "Destiny lives across the street from the Center and she loves coming here and to me that's all that counts. This is our future."



Kelvin Black helps his grandson, Messiah Freeman, age 4, with an alphabet puzzle.

GRANTEE

Evergreen Community Development Initiative

GRANT AWARD

\$53,200

GRANT STRATEGY

Early Childhood Education

Executive Director Shelly Sparks looks to parents and children to better understand the programs and services of most interest to them. "With the digital library, we have an opportunity to expand services for family literacy, financial literacy, parenting classes, and workplace readiness for children's parents," Sparks says. "These services, offered from a central location in north Flint, will reduce the prevalence of poverty among young families and ultimately improve outcomes for children."



LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Scholarship recipient Kyden Wallace, age 2, with teacher Samantha Hill.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HELPS REDUCE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF CHILD CARE

Jasmine Wallace works from home, an impossible task with two young children playing around her desk demanding attention. The Flint mother was looking for quality child care for her children and was thrilled to find Peyton’s Learning Place in Clio. The location works well for the family because Wallace’s parents live in Clio.

She was more excited to learn about the early childhood scholarships being offered there through Child Care Network Regional 4C. The scholarship program is part of a \$250,000 grant supported by the Flint Kids Fund. Through the program, Flint parents are eligible to receive a child care subsidy based on their income.

“They get to interact with other children their ages,” Wallace says. “Being able to be around other children and learning new things ... it’s helping me!”

Kyden, age 2, enjoys singing new songs at home and loves being read to. Daughter Alyna, age 3, is now potty-trained and that’s been a huge help for mom. And teachers are helping with her speech skills as well.



Preschoolers enjoy reading time with teacher Samantha Hill.

“Scholarships like these reduce the financial burden for families. Child care is expensive and families may not earn enough income to afford the full cost of care,” said Annette J. Sobocinski, Executive Director of Child Care Network Regional 4C. “Our goal is that 95 percent of families will report their children as being better prepared for school as a result of this program.”

Beyond the scholarships, the Network also provides support to Flint area child care providers on quality improvement initiatives, such as the Great Start to Quality.

GRANTEE

Child Care Network
Regional 4C

GRANT AWARD

\$250,000

GRANT STRATEGY

Early Childhood Education

BABY CAFÉ OFFERS SUPPORT AND BREAKS DOWN BARRIERS TO BREASTFEEDING

Breast milk is often called “nature’s perfect food.” The health benefits of breastfeeding are well documented, along with the cost savings to families.

Yet, breastfeeding rates in Genesee County are dismal. In the latest state report from 2018, only 22 infants were breast fed beyond 11 months of age, compared with the 1,458 who initiated on breastfeeding at birth.

Breaking down the barriers to breastfeeding is the goal of the Michigan State University Extension Breastfeeding Initiative Program, funded with a \$70,600 grant from the Flint Kids Fund. LaTashia Perry, certified lactation consultant and mother of five children herself, leads the program in Flint.

“Mothers feel like they don’t have anyone to understand what they’re going through,” says Perry. “Being able to see someone not just talking about it, but doing it, helps.”

At the Baby Café, located at Atherton Van Y Elementary School, mothers gather for clinical and social time in a family friendly environment. Qiana Edwards of Flint appreciates the support she receives as she breastfeeds her infant, Ariaiah. Today she wonders if she is producing enough milk, sensing a decrease in the supply. Ariaiah is weighed on the scale, making sure she is gaining weight and reassuring mom that she is producing enough milk. “I would tell new mothers that if they get discouraged, seek help,” Edwards says.

Beyond the Baby Café, Perry offers home visits and consultations by phone. “I’ve see a lot of women excited to breastfeed, and many drop off after six weeks to return to work,” Perry says. “Our goal is to get them through the first year. That’s why peer counseling support is so important. Mom to mom support with no judgments.”

GRANTEE

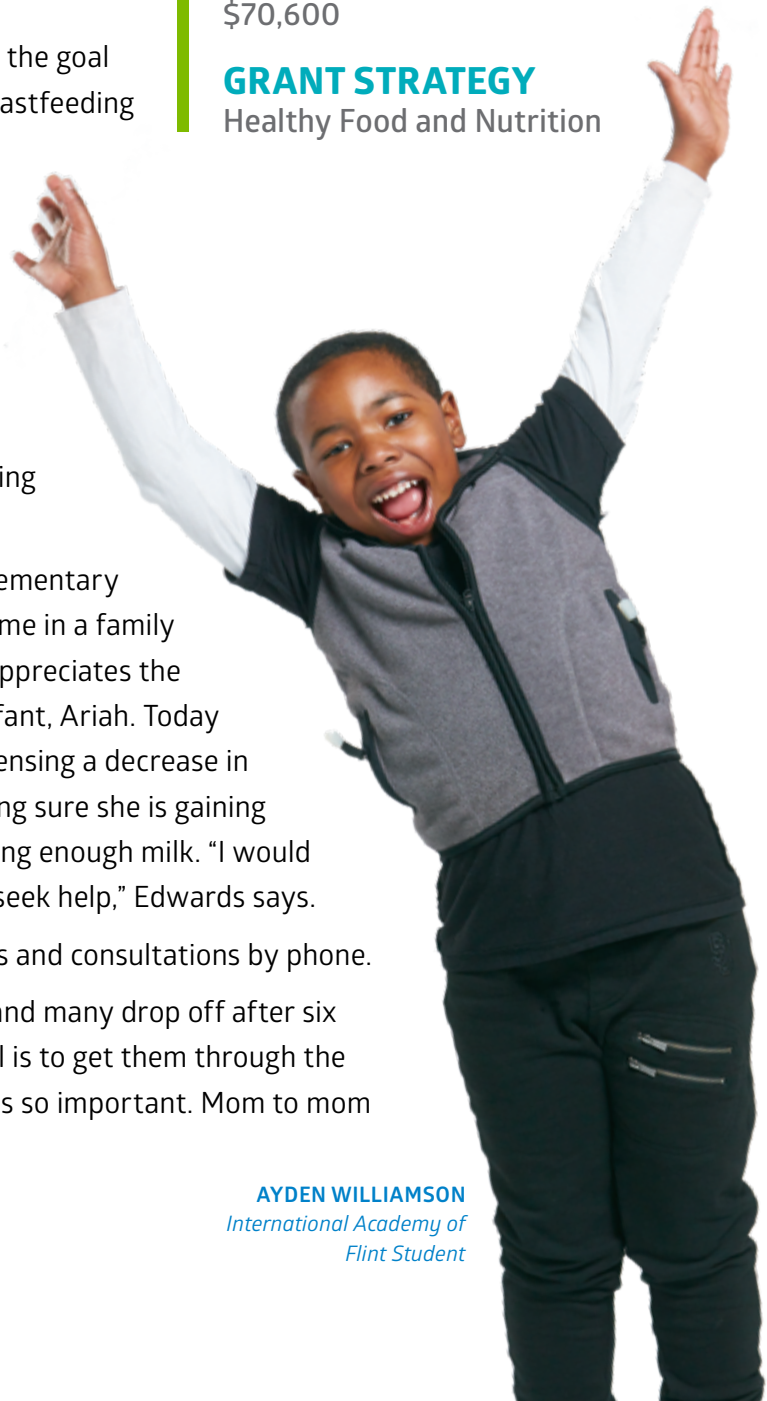
Michigan State University
Extension Services

GRANT AWARD

\$70,600

GRANT STRATEGY

Healthy Food and Nutrition



AYDEN WILLIAMSON
*International Academy of
Flint Student*



AN ASSET FOR NEW MOMS

Qiana Edwards and daughter Aariah,
age 4 months, with lactation consultant
LaTashia Perry.

FAMILY CENTER PROVIDES ENHANCED OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS TO LEARN & GROW

Later this summer, children residing at Carriage Town Ministries and youth living in the nearby neighborhood will have access to a newly developed “learning playground.”

Located next to the Carriage Town Family Center on Garland Street, the new playground is a major enhancement to an area where no playground exists. Funded with a \$79,500 grant from the Flint Kids Fund, it includes a colorful new playground structure, two swing sets, garden beds, wrought iron fencing with safety gates, a brick pathway, and landscaping.

GRANTEE

Carriage Town Ministries

GRANT AWARD

\$79,500

GRANT STRATEGY

Early Childhood Education

In addition to early childhood education and physical activity, children will receive hands-on gardening experience with the installation of two raised garden beds, explained Cindy Johns, Director of Community Engagement and Development at Carriage Town Ministries. “With help from local master gardeners, children will be planting their own food, using food from the garden to create healthy meals and after schools snacks, and learning the nutritional value of foods that help combat the effects of lead.”

The learning playground is a nice compliment to the Early Head Start program started last fall. A former clothing room was converted into two classrooms. Pre-school age children are playing with purpose and establishing routines, schedules and structure — what children need early on, says Trina Carswell, Resident Life Director.

“Having children in a safe place where they are learning helps parents transition quicker to housing and employment,” Carswell explained. “And children can stay in the program once transitioned.”

Johns is excited for the planting event scheduled on Memorial Day and the upcoming opportunities for fun learning experiences outdoors, in the sunshine.



NEVAEH WOFFORD
*International Academy
of Flint Student*

A photograph of a young child with curly hair, wearing a white shirt, sitting at a light-colored wooden table. The child is focused on playing with several wooden shape-sorter toys, each featuring a different colored shape (like a star, heart, and circle) and a corresponding wooden peg. A woman with glasses and a patterned scarf is leaning over the table, looking at the child's work. The background is slightly blurred, showing a colorful, child-friendly environment.

PLAYING WITH PURPOSE

Teacher Kayla Dortch
with Adara Kabel.

DONORS

Thank you for caring for Flint children! We are grateful to the following donors who have contributed \$10,000 or more to the Flint Kids Fund.

\$500,000 or higher

Carnegie Corporation of New York
Thomas and Holly Gores
The Kresge Foundation
Michigan Health Endowment Fund
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

\$100,000 to \$499,999

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William White
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CAMPAIGN FOR FLINT KIDS

The Campaign for the Children of Flint continues. This comprehensive, forward-thinking effort seeks to meet the long-term health, development, and education needs of Flint children and their families by supporting programs necessary to ensure the children of Flint thrive.

We are raising resources for what is essential for children:

- ▶ High quality early education
- ▶ Healthy food and nutrition
- ▶ A medical home and child health team
- ▶ Family, social, and emotional support

Fund Goals

FLINT KIDS is seeking \$50 million in private support over the next 10 years. These funds will provide the resources necessary to address challenges created by the Flint water crisis and 40 years of serious, community-wide economic decline.

While lead exposure is detrimental to anyone exposed, it is particularly harmful to children. Lead exposure can result in life-long health, developmental, and behavioral problems. Prior to the water crisis, Flint

children already faced significant adverse childhood experiences associated with poverty and racial disparities resulting from decades of economic decline.

By investing in our children, the Flint Kids Fund will provide the needed resources for all Flint children to grow and develop into healthy young adults. Thank you for helping our children access community-based systems that optimize learning, school achievement, health and development, social skills, and confidence.

Flint Kids Advisory Committee

Grants from the Flint Kids Fund are advised by an eight-member advisory committee, many of whom are Flint residents.

Grants from the Fund support nonprofit organizations that provide interventions and support positive outcomes for Flint children. We are grateful to the Flint Child Health and Development Fund Advisory Committee for its dedication and support.

George Wilkinson, Chair
Mona Hanna-Attisha, M.D., MPH, FAAP
Kenyetta Dotson
Jamie Gaskin
Wanda Harden
Diana Kelly
Lawrence A. Reynolds, M.D., FAAP
Kirk D. Smith

FLINT KIDS GRANTMAKING TOPS \$7 MILLION MARK

With your help, our community is rebounding. Thank you for helping us create an opportunity for Flint to flip the terrible tragedy of its water crisis into a model of community collaboration and rebirth.

Grantmaking from the Flint Kids Fund offers a long-term response through sustained and thoughtful interventions so children of Flint will have healthy and productive lives long into the future. While the grant awards are not evenly distributed across the strategies, we rely on the Committee's expertise to guide grant funding decisions. As of December 31, 2018, the Committee has approved \$7,430,961 in grants from the Fund. A complete list of grants from 2016 to 2018, their purpose and amount, is listed below.

Grant Strategy: Increase access to high quality early education for children

Carriage Town Ministries \$79,500

Provide a safe place to play based on learning for Carriage Town Ministries Early Head Start Program, after school and summer months programming; as well as children in the surrounding neighborhood.

Charles Stewart Mott Community College \$224,000

Address the needs of current and future Mott Community College (MCC) student-parents and their children through a two-generation approach, by preserving and expanding the capacity of MCC Early Childhood Learning Center's Young Preschool through scholarships and subsidies to increase student-parent access to high quality child care.

Child Care Network Regional 4C \$500,000

Expand scholarships to help families pay for high quality child care; training and support provided through the Great Start to Quality Southeast Resource Center for licensed and soon to be licensed child care programs; and support provided to unlicensed family, friend and neighbor care.

Child Connect for Family Success \$92,000

Provide 76 early childhood professionals with the opportunity to complete an Early Childhood Development Associate credential.

Evergreen Community Development Initiative \$53,200

Provide a range of supports, through the Flint Development Center, for the families of children under 6 years old, specifically focused on improving literacy of parents and guardians and expanding early childhood services.

Flint Children's Museum \$28,500

Upgrade exhibits to help promote positive cognitive development for children throughout the City of Flint.

Flint Community Schools \$20,600

Support the addition of a Montessori Great Start Readiness Program pre-kindergarten class for 4-year-olds as part of the Flint Community Schools' expansion of its public Montessori program.

Flint Community Schools \$49,000

Support staff training costs associated with adding two Montessori classrooms for kindergarten students, as part of the Flint Community Schools' expansion of its public Montessori program.

Flint Cultural Center Corporation \$250,000

Support the development of programming and partnerships around the Sloan Museum of Discovery's Early Childhood Initiative.

Flint Public Library \$516,700

Implement Flint Kids Read with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which will provide an age appropriate book by mail each month to Flint children from birth to age five.

University of Michigan-Flint \$360,000

Support a portion of the renovation costs of the Cummings Great Expectations Early Childhood Center, which will provide over 200, high-quality early childhood openings to Flint children.

University of Michigan-Flint \$304,261

Provide accessible, high quality, early childhood play-based literacy, math, and science education to toddlers, pre-school aged children and their parents/guardians in their neighborhoods through a Pop-Up School.

Investments in Early Childhood Education: \$2,477,761

Grant Strategy: Provide access to education regarding healthy food and nutrition

Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties \$20,000

Provide partial support for Mr. Gaines Gardening Program, a community garden program that provides summer jobs and mentoring to nearly 50 at-risk youth residing on the north end of Flint, while teaching agriculture and nutrition education regarding healthy foods.

Edible Flint \$11,000

Support Edible Flint's efforts to increase residents' ability to connect, grow, and access healthy food through programs including Garden Starters, Annual Food Garden Tour, soil testing, and outreach and information related to lead safety for gardeners.

Fair Food Network \$450,000

Increase healthy food access and affordability for the children and families of Flint, while creating a healthy food incentive program that is efficient, sustainable, and optimally placed to inform state and federal food policy.

Genesee Chamber Foundation \$110,000

Complete pre-development work for the new construction of two independent, local grocery stores in north Flint.

Genesee County Community Action Resource Department \$167,000

Expansion of the Meet Up, Eat Up summer meal program to more Flint sites and to establish year round sites for weekend meals.

Hurley Foundation \$22,000

Support cooking demonstrations and nutrition education for Flint families to lessen the effects of lead exposure. Hurley staff, in collaboration with other partners, will provide 100 cooking demonstrations at the Flint Farmers' Market, Flint schools, and community locations.

Michigan Breastfeeding Network \$485,000

Support 310 Connect: A Flint Collective Impact Breastfeeding project which aims to improve health and neurodevelopment outcomes in the Flint area by addressing barriers to breastfeeding initiation and continuation.





Michigan State University Extension Services \$180,600

Increase breastfeeding rates among low-income women by providing peer counselors who give one-on-one breastfeeding support to pregnant and new mothers throughout their infant's first year of life.

United Way of Genesee County (fiscal sponsor) \$138,600

Provide accessible and affordable healthy and fresh food to Flint's children and families impacted by the water crisis, who currently have limited exposure to healthy items.

YMCA of Greater Flint \$62,000

Launch a mobile farmers' market called Flint Fresh Mobile Market. The market will bring fresh, healthy foods to people throughout the community, in neighborhoods, places of worship, senior centers, and medical centers.

Investments in Healthy Food and Nutrition: \$1,646,200

Grant Strategy: Improve access to a medical home and a child health team for all children and pregnant mothers to ensure, in part, that all children are provided with robust developmental assessment and support.

Hurley Foundation \$234,000

Expansion of the Nurse Family Partnership program which provides early health and developmental interventions for mothers and children. Each mother is partnered with a registered nurse and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through the child's second birthday.

United Way of Genesee County

(fiscal sponsor) \$70,000

Strengthen the capacity of an emerging organization, Latinos United for Flint, for engagement and coordination efforts that will help to ensure that Spanish-speaking residents of the city have equitable access to information and services related to the water crisis.

Investments in Access to a Medical Home: \$304,000

Grant Strategy: Increase family social and emotional support, as well as family literacy and parenting skills.

Church Without Walls Ministries \$20,000

Empower, impact, and connect families with appropriate resources and opportunities while strengthening the relationship and communication between families, educators, and human service providers.

Crim Fitness Foundation \$750,000

Expansion of Mindfulness programs to reach all Flint Community School children as a tool to help address the impacts of lead poisoning and environmental stress. The Crim will also educate the public about Mindfulness and its benefits starting with a community-wide symposium, featuring internationally known Mindfulness researchers and experts.

C.S. Mott Community College \$480,000

Launch a two-generation family literacy program in 3-4 sites through the Flint & Genesee Literacy Network.

First Presbyterian Church \$20,000

Help Flint families with children impacted by the water crisis to secure legal documents (birth records, identification cards, driver's licenses) and transportation to access health and social services.

Flint Community Schools \$100,000

Create 58 kindergarten through second grade classroom literacy centers in Flint Community Schools.

Genesee Health System \$250,000

Implementation of an accessible, culturally-sensitive, community-wide approach to building resiliency, coping, and socio-emotional skills, known as the Community Support and Resiliency Program (CSRP). CSRP will provide community-wide resiliency events and workforce training supports, in addition to individual, group, and family counseling, which will be provided through a mobile clinic.

Genesee Intermediate School District \$279,000

Strengthen the language and literacy skills of families impacted by the water crisis, in coordination with the Flint Public Library's implementation of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Hurley Foundation \$384,500

Program support at the Sumathi Mukkamala Children's Center, the Video Interaction Project, which uses pediatric well visits from birth until a child is 5 years old, to reduce and prevent disparities in health and life outcomes before they emerge, by helping parents gain the skills and confidence to engage in activities, such as reading aloud and play, that stimulate children's brain development and enable them to enter school ready to learn.

Michigan State University Extension Services \$27,500

Provide education and support to increase coping skills and resiliency strategies to help residents handle the negative psychological impact of the Flint water crisis.

United Way of Genesee County \$356,000

Build two new playgrounds in the City of Flint at Hasselbring and Broome Parks in 2017; and build six new playgrounds in the City of Flint in 2018.

YMCA of Greater Flint \$36,000

Support the Safe Places to Wild Places camping experience program. The program will provide access for 100 Flint youth ages 7-17 to experience a week long, overnight camp at YMCA Camp Copneconic.

United Way of Genesee County

(fiscal sponsor) \$20,000

R.L. Jones Community Outreach will provide recovery and mitigation services to residents of north Flint, particularly targeting small children, disconnected youth, and the homebound.

**Investments in Family Supports:
\$2,723,000**

Beyond Grantmaking

Greater Flint Health Coalition \$280,000

The "State of Flint Kids Report Card," also known as OurFlintKids.org, examines the state of Flint's children from a population level prior to the Flint water crisis and continuing with currently available data. This data will be available for anyone to view on OurFlintKids.org, and will be the basis for advocacy efforts to secure additional funding to meet community needs.

**Investments beyond grantmaking:
\$280,000**

**TOTAL GRANTMAKING Since Fund
Inception: \$7,430,961**

GRANTEES SPEAK OUT

To better understand the impact of grantmaking investments from the Flint Kids Fund, the Foundation for Flint has engaged Detroit-based JFM Consulting Group to conduct an evaluation. The three-year evaluation period began in 2017, and is funded by The Kresge Foundation.

The purpose of the evaluation is to better understand the progress, achievements, challenges, and lessons learned through support of programs and services that attempt to mitigate lead exposure among young children in Flint. A survey was distributed to Flint Kids grantee organizations to determine the strengths and gaps in the network of services, programs, and resources in Flint to mitigate the impact of the Flint water crisis on young children. We asked grantees this question:

To what extent are Flint Kids Fund investments helping to support an integrated and holistic approach to serving children's health and education needs?

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT

- ▶ Nutrition and food accessibility were enhanced through collective efforts from grant funded agencies, relative to food cooking demonstrations, food baskets and food pharmacy efforts.
- ▶ Schools provide resiliency programming and distribution of food baskets; and literacy has improved as a result of grantmaking efforts.
- ▶ Through school activities, museum programming, and a summer camp, youth were provided opportunities to participate in physical activities beneficial to their overall well-being.

We also learned grantees would like the foundation to bring groups together to share work, network, and build connections. They also recommended expansion of the age of service provision to include all youth.

Among surveyed grantees and interview respondents, there is consensus the financial support from the Flint Kids Fund has been crucial in serving Flint's children and linking families to supports to mitigate the effects of lead exposure. The evaluation continues in 2019, and we are grateful for your continued support.



CHRISTIAN GREENE
*International Academy
of Flint Student*

The future of thousands of Flint children has been forever altered. More than 13,000 children under the age of eight were exposed to lead-tainted water for over two years.

Thanks to your help, Flint children and their families have access to needed interventions to overcome this population-wide exposure to lead. Thanks to you and these incredible programs and services, we look forward to a future where all Flint children are strong, resilient, and healthy. With your continued investment, we believe this is possible.



HOW TO CONTACT US

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Visit www.cfgf.org

Facebook: facebook.com/cfgflint

Twitter: [@cfgreaterflint](https://twitter.com/cfgreaterflint)

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