

on the table

MACON

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Media Contacts

Nancy Cleveland

Community Foundation of Central Georgia

(478) 750-9338 | ncleveland@cfcga.org

On The Table Macon Conversation to Action Mini-Grants Announced

\$15,000 awarded to residents to launch ideas from conversations during On The Table Macon

MACON, GA — December 19, 2018 – Today, Community Foundation of Central Georgia announced the recipients of the Conversation to Action Mini-Grants, which were designed to give seed funding to ideas sparked by CFCG’s *On the Table Macon 2018* – where Macon-Bibb County residents came together on October 17th in mealtime conversations designed to generate new ideas, inspire bold solutions, cultivate relationships and collaborations, and inspire action to improve communities in Macon-Bibb County. In all, \$15,000 was awarded to 17 projects that will support actionable solutions to benefit the Macon-Bibb community.

CFCG was one of 10 community foundations across the U.S. participating in *On The Table*, a national initiative funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Everyone who lives, works or plays in Macon-Bibb County was invited to participate in *On The Table Macon*. On October 17th, nearly 5,000 guests joined 600 tables in conversation. Organizations and individuals of all ages, from all walks of life and socio-economic backgrounds stepped up to the plate, joined the conversation, and made connections to support future collaborative action.

The Conversation to Action Mini-Grant Program was designed to seed ideas that were sparked from these discussions. The projects selected truly answered the call to go from conversation to action. CFCG looked for projects that featured a new idea generated through an *On The Table Macon* conversation, focused on action and collaboration to provide innovative, more efficient approaches to solving community issues, addressed needs not currently being met by an existing organization, and reached a broad segment of the community.

“*On The Table Macon* gave people the platform to see past their differences and connect with one another,” said Nancy Cleveland, Communications Associate of the Community Foundation of Central Georgia. “Conversation to Action Grants were created to help water the seeds that residents have planted and we are excited about seeing these projects come to fruition throughout Macon-Bibb County.”

At the end of each *On the Table* conversation, all participants were invited to complete a brief electronic survey about the themes of their conversations, their outlook on the community and what ideas they will take beyond the table. In January 2019, CFCG will publicly share these outcomes, including trends, common themes, and new collaborations developed to continue the momentum of moving Macon-Bibb County forward.

Conversation to Action Mini-Grant Recipients

\$500 Winners:

- Frankie Lewis of S.M.A.R.T., Inc. (South Macon Arts Revitalization Technology) will launch “It Takes A Village,” which is a pilot program that will match youth and/or families at risk with people in the community who will assist them with working through their difficulties.
- Erica Duncan, Mercer student and intern at BikeWalk Macon, will bring a national initiative, Safe Routes to Parks, to Macon. This will reduce unequal access to greenspaces by auditing and publishing safe, accessible bikeable and walkable routes to parks.

\$1,000 Winners:

- Jill Vanderhoek with Community Partnership, Incorporated will activate existing community assets, such as church transportation, in order to develop a program to transport residents to grocery stores.
- LaTravius Smith with Kingdom Life Church will implement a Mental Health Symposium to bring awareness and address the traumatic effects of poverty on mental well-being of children and families in our community.
- Scott Mitchell with the Downtown Macon Community Association will bring a pilot program to place a new portable restroom in Downtown Macon to serve visitors, residents, and transient residents.
- Renee Wilmore with Evergreen Church of Macon will have a movie viewing, regarding social issues affecting teenagers, for middle and high school teens of Macon and their parent(s) and then lead a discussion to create actionable steps to implement change in Macon.
- Macon-Bibb County Commissioner, Virgil Watkins Jr., will implement the creation of Community Courts. A local effort to reduce recidivism rates of low-level offenders and provide first time non-violent offenders with a reformatory pathway by engaging community courts and partners.
- Andrea Cooke, a Macon-Bibb County resident, will introduce Laundry Days. A program that would provide free tokens for washing clothes while the participants engage in a community building conversation.
- June O'Neal with the Mentor's Project will host a cookout and job fair in Unionville and will have community businesses on site to offer jobs to the residents.
- Daffney Michell Hollis will expand our city's transportation services to homeless individuals seeking assistance by transporting them to medical appointments, job appointments, and other important places.
- Rena Canady-Laster with Central Georgia Technical College will implement a program where current CGTC adult education students will participate in a recruitment initiative called *Each One Reach One*. Students will be encouraged to invite their friends and family who have dropped-out of school to a round table discussion about education and job training opportunities.
- Robin Crosby with Campus Clubs, Incorporated will create a unique job training program where their students will "adopt Culver Street" and foster community engagement by organizing street gatherings, trash pick-ups, and other service projects.
- Charise Stephens with the Middle Georgia Fitness and Wellness Festival will spearhead the Mount Homes Youth Agriculture Project which will be an agrihood lead by kids in the Mount Homes community in Pleasant Hill.

Mutiple-Grant Recipients:

- Antonio Williams with the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Association will receive two \$1,000 grants. One will provide at least 50 coats for winter to the kids in the community and host a small cookout for distribution. The second grant will help him to continue hosting at least one Community Clean Up a month in Pleasant Hill.
- Ernestine Thomas of the Lynmore Estates Neighborhood Association will also receive two separate grants. One for \$250 to purchase branded t-shirts for the Lynmore Estates Youth Ambassadors, who assist with small repairs and other activities in their neighborhood. The second grant for \$750 will be in support of the Lynmore Estates Porch Pilot Project in which the Youth Ambassadors will do small repairs to the homes of seniors and the disabled in their community.

About On The Table Macon

Community Foundation of Central Georgia is one of 10 community foundations across the U.S. participating in *On the Table*, a national initiative funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation following a successful pilot in 2017. *On the Table* replicates an annual civic engagement initiative of the same name developed by The Chicago Community Trust in 2014. Support for *On the Table* advances Knight Foundation's work to help cities attract and keep talented people, expand economic opportunity and create a culture of civic engagement. Knight Foundation believes that successful communities are equitable, inclusive and participatory. To learn more, visit onthetablemacon.com.

About the Community Foundation of Central Georgia

The Community Foundation of Central Georgia was founded in 1993 by a group of citizens interested in encouraging philanthropy and strengthening communities. Since then, the foundation has awarded more than \$86 million in grants. Our donors make possible the foundation's mission to enhance the quality of life for the people of Central Georgia. To learn more, visit cfcga.org.



About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy.

