

# Charitable Contribution Staff Recommendations



2025

# Staff Team

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- Daniel Vincent, Planner 1
- Julie Staradumsky, Receptionist/Finance Assistant
- Patrea St. John, Planner 1
- Caroline Wall, Arts and Cultural Events Manager
- Sha'Ante Graham, Communications Specialist
- Petra Reynolds, Town Clerk

# 2025 Charitable Contributions

Total Requested

**\$260,013.00 (19 applicants)**

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Total funds to be  
awarded

**\$200,000**

Recommended by  
Staff

**\$199,024**

# Team 1

## Caroline and Petra



Recurring Applicant



# AMOR Healing Kitchens

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**Requested**

**\$7,440**

**Recommended**

**\$7,440**

# Project Overview

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Since 2018, AMOR Healing Kitchens has been providing freshly prepared, nutritionally balanced meals to individuals undergoing treatment for cancer & other critical health challenges. The plant-based meals are rich in essential nutrients, antioxidants and phytochemicals, which help strengthen the immune system, reduce inflammation, and support overall well-being. The meals are prepped and cooked each week by teen volunteers and kitchen mentors and then delivered by volunteers to around 400 clients in the greater Charleston area. Each delivery includes 4 meals, a snack, a dessert, a menu, a nutrition newsletter, and a bouquet of flowers.

**The requested funding would provide meals and delivery to the 31 Sea Island clients they serve for the entirety of 2025.**

Reoccurring Recipient



# Backpack Buddies – Seabrook Island

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**Requested**

**\$5,000**

**Recommend**

**\$5,000**

# Project Overview

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The Backpack Buddies Seabrook Island (BPBSI) program provides nutritious food and snacks to needy children for weekends and school holidays so that they do not go hungry and can return to school ready to learn. Volunteers purchase food weekly during the school year and then organize the food into individual bags that are delivered to Mt. Zion Elementary and distributed to students in need as determined by the school's principal, nurse, child advocate, or the Communities In Schools representative. At St. Johns High School, BPBSI maintains a food pantry and to-go bags of food for students in need.

**The BPBSI program serves 107 students at Mt. Zion, and 145 students at Lambs Elementary, and 100 students at St. Johns High School. The requested funds are allocated to food purchases for the 352 students served on JI.**

Reoccurring Recipient



Barrier Islands  
Free Medical Clinic

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**Requested**

**\$30,000**

**Recommend**

**\$25,000**

# Project Overview

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Barrier Island Free Medical Clinic (BIFMC) provides free primary and specialty medical care to low-income, uninsured adults who live or work across the Barrier Islands and are confronting chronic high-risk diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, coronary disease, and disease-related issues. BIFMC is staffed by over 140 highly skilled volunteers and, with community support, is able to provide free routine primary and preventative care, screenings, vaccinations, prescriptions, labs and imaging, and access to over 19 subspecialties in the community.

**BIFMC has been able to provide over 68,000 free patient visits since opening its doors in 2008.**



New Applicant

**Camp Hi Hopes  
Ministry  
of Wesley UMC**

**Requested**

**\$10,000**

**Recommend**

**\$7,000**

# Project Overview

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Camp Hi Hopes offers an all-day, economically affordable summer enrichment camp on Johns Island scheduled for June 17 to July 26, 2024. The program provides daily opportunities for campers to enhance reading and language development physical and social development. It also provides opportunities for campers to increase their academic skills through participation in a broad spectrum of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) related activities and takes campers on field trips that are historical, cultural, educational, and fun-filled.

**The program primarily serves approx. 30 students attending elementary schools on Johns and Wadmalaw Islands to continue learning during the summer.**

Reoccurring Recipient



## Charleston Area Senior Citizens

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**Requested**

**\$22,369**

**Recommend**

**\$15,000**

# Project Overview

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The CASC Meals on Wheels Program is an important program for seniors who suffer from isolation and food insecurity. Each weekday, the CASC volunteers deliver an average of 600-700 meals to homebound seniors, providing a hot lunch meal and a daily welfare check, allowing seniors to be supported in their desire to remain at home and to stay independent as long as possible.

**The funding request is to cover the raw food costs for 53 clients on Johns and Wadmalaw Islands for 6 months.**

Reoccurring Recipient



# Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding

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**Requested**

**\$7,084**

**Recommend**

**\$7,084**

# Project Overview

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- Provides therapeutic riding to 8-12 children with disabilities in a special education classroom from a school on Johns or Wadmalaw Island. Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding (CATR) instructors develop student goals and a 12-week curriculum that focuses on increasing students' emotional, cognitive and physical fitness to ultimately improve school performance and overall quality of life.
- **Funding will provide therapeutic riding to one special education classroom on their waiting list.**

Reoccurring Recipient



# Kiawah Women's Foundation

**Requested**

**\$15,000**

**Recommend**

**\$12,000**

# Project Overview

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Each week during the school year our Backpack Buddies volunteers prepare approximately 300 bags filled with twelve protein rich, shelf stable foods/snacks for students selected by their schools' counselors. Our volunteers help purchase and deliver the bags to Angel Oak and Frierson elementary schools and Haut Gap middle school where the counselors put the bags in the students backpacks on Fridays to sustain them over the weekend.

**Funding goes directly to purchasing food for the Backpack Buddies program, which benefits children from families living below the poverty level. They serve around 350 students a week.**

# Team 2

Julie Staradumsky and Daniel Vincent



Reoccurring Recipient



**Lowcountry  
Food Bank**

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**Requested**

**\$15,520**

**Recommend**

**\$12,000**

# Project Overview

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Nearly 60% of children attending public schools on Johns and Wadmalaw Islands qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. For many children, the food they receive through the National School Lunch Program is most, if not all the nutritious food they have to eat. With this funding, the LCFB will be able to fill in the gaps for meals during the summer, at night, and on the weekends with the distribution of nutritious food including fresh produce to Haut Gap Middle School.

**Funding will be used to purchase food that is normally cost prohibitive for food-insecure families and support the purchase of 22,000 pounds of nutritious food for distribution.**

Reoccurring Recipient



## New Webster JIP Food Pantry

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**Requested**

**\$8,000**

**Recommend**

**\$8,000**

# Project Overview

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The New Webster JIP Food Pantry “A Hand Up and not a Handout” project strives to eliminate excessive hunger on Johns and Wadmalaw Islands in a meaningful and dignified manner by providing food to needy and hurting people, to survive and become self-sufficient. They promote the value of healthy nutrition; provide how-to food preparation for unfamiliar foods; distribute encouraging notes on how to save money and share community informational flyer on employment opportunities in the community.

**The requested funds will be used to purchase perishable and nonperishable food for distribution in the bi-monthly events.**

Recurring Recipient



# Operation Home

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**Requested**

**\$10,000**

**Recommend**

**\$10,000**

# Project Overview

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The organization's mission is to help people remain in their homes by increasing safety and accessibility by facilitating critical home repairs (roofs, floors, ramps). Their target demographic are low-income families within the tri-county area that fall 50% or less of the median family income.

**The Kiawah grant will fund the critical home repairs and the heat and cold relief programs for Johns Island and Wadmalaw Island for up to 40 families.**

Reoccurring Recipient



OUR LADY OF MERCY

COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH

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**Requested**

**\$30,000**

**Recommend**

**\$14,000**

# Project Overview

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Core mission is to build equitable communities and empower community members (Johns, and Wadmalaw Island) to reach their full potential by providing basic and emergency needs, education, employment and health services. The full program includes the following:

- ❖ Emergency Financial Assistance
- ❖ Food Pantry
- ❖ Clothing Pantry
- ❖ Senior Food Box Distribution
- ❖ Work Force Development Program
- ❖ **Dental Services**
- ❖ Women's Health Services
- ❖ Health Education
- ❖ Prenatal Care
- ❖ After-School Program
- ❖ Budgeting Classes
- ❖ Child Learning Center
- ❖ English as a Second Language Classes
- ❖ GED Classes

**The requested funds will directly support the Dental Services program.**

Reoccurring Recipient

# The Paraclete Foundation of Holy Spirit Catholic Church

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**Requested**

**\$15,000**

**Recommend**

**\$12,000**

# Project Overview

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Serves elderly, disabled and working low-income neighbors of Johns and Wadmalaw Islands with repairs in effort to restore their homes to secure, safe, and sanitary conditions. These repairs include all major systems of the homes including electrical, plumbing/septic and heating/cooling systems. In every case, the families are living below the poverty line, and own their homes but are unable to afford to fix them. The Foundation serves all in need without regard to legal status, political affiliation, race, age, sex, or religious beliefs.

**The requested funds will go directly towards one to three of the twenty-two projects planned for repair in 2025.**

Reoccurring Recipient



# Sea Island Blessing Basket

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**Requested**

**\$25,000**

**Recommend**

**\$20,000**

# Project Overview

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Sea Island Blessing Baskets is a volunteer-based community outreach food distribution program that provides nutritious, desirable food baskets once a month to low-income families on Johns Island and Wadmalaw Island. Volunteers pack bags/baskets with healthy groceries including fresh produce, meat, eggs and bread. In some cases, the program provides basic toiletries, paper products and cleaning supplies to help the clients meet essential needs of daily living.

**The requested funds will support the Blessing Basket program for two months.**

# Team 3



Patrea St. John and Sha'Ante Graham

**Recurring Recipient**

2024 - \$20,000    2023 - \$18,000



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**Requested**

**\$20,000**

**Recommend**

**\$18,000**

# Project Overview

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The Sea Island Habitat Home for Humanity Critical Repair Program provides critical repairs to existing homes on Johns and Wadmalaw Island whose owners live at or below the poverty level. Repairs are primarily for weatherization, security and safety. (roofs, window and door repairs and accessibility issues including stairs, handrails, and ramp installation)

**This grant will help fund the construction of a house for a single mother (Johns Island resident) and her three children. Her current home is uninhabitable.**

Recurring Recipient

2024 - \$5,000 2023 - \$3,000

**St. James Bethel  
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

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**Requested**

**\$6,000**

**Recommend**

**\$6,000**

# Project Overview

St. James Bethel A.M.E.'s Food Pantry Program distributes groceries to individuals on Wadmalaw Island and John's Island. The program has been in existence since 1998. Groceries are distributed every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. This program is supported by a total of 14 volunteers.

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This program supports 110 households annually.

**This grant will help fund groceries for the program.**

Previously funded

2017 - \$9,000

2019 - \$6,500



## Sweetgrass Garden Co-op

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**Requested**

**\$3,000**

**Recommend**

**\$2,500**

# Project Overview

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Sweetgrass Garden Co-op is a nonprofit farm that provides free, fresh, naturally grown, local produce to charitable food distribution agencies for the following Sea Island organizations: Lowcountry Food Bank Summer Meals Program, Sea Island Blessing Basket, and food pantries at Hebrew Zion Presbyterian Church, Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach and Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

**This grant will cover the cost of farming supplies: sow true seeds, fruit and nut trees.**



## Recurring Recipient

2024 - \$7,000 2023 - \$7,000

# The Feeding the Multitude

**Requested**

**\$7,000**

**Recommend**

**\$4,000**

# Project Overview

Feeding of the Multitude builds on community service work of partnering churches and helps provide for people in need for the Thanksgiving holiday. This organization serves 6,600 people annually and is expected to grow this year.

**This event grows every year and now includes over 100 volunteers from 25 churches on Johns and Wadmalaw Islands to make this event happen. Funding will go directly toward purchasing Thanksgiving meals.**



Previously applied – not funded

## Third Serve Foundation

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**Requested**

**\$13,600**

**Recommend**

**\$6,000**

# Project Overview

Third Serve Foundation's *Fit to Serve* program promotes healthy living among students on Johns and Wadmalaw Island by equipping them with tools and resources to adopt and sustain positive lifestyle changes. By integrating tennis with wellness education, *Fit to Serve* seeks to enhance the physical, mental, and social well-being of underserved youth. This project is divided into two components:

- Monthly Wellness Workshops tailored for elementary to middle school students.
- Community Tennis and Health events offering free health-screenings.

Third Serve is supported by a total of 40 volunteers (Kiawah and Seabrook Island residents). This program supports 150 students annually.

**This grant application proposes to help fund the workshops (6) and Community Events (2). Recommendation is to fund the workshops (6).**



New Applicant

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**Requested**

**\$10,000**

**Recommend**

**\$8,000**

# Project Overview

The Vision to Learn program provides access to vision screening, eye exams and new prescription glasses directly to kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in high need, underserved communities at no cost to the students or their families.

The Charleston Chapter projects to serve approximately 4100 students in the Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley region. During the 2024-2025 school year the clinic has served the Mt. Zion Elementary School where they performed 52 eye exams and dispensed 46 pairs of glasses. The clinic is scheduled to go to St. John's High School and Edith L. Frierson Elementary School before the end of this school years. A schedule for 2025 – 2026 will make a second visit to Haut Gap Middle School and the Greg Mathis Charter High School.

The approximate cost basis for each student that receives a pair of glasses is \$130 and the requested \$10,000 would provide approximately 77 pairs of glasses for these local students.

The End

