Sharing Montgomery brings together people who share our belief that our community cannot truly thrive when so many of our neighbors are struggling, unable to meet their essential needs let alone pursue their dreams. People who are committed to building thriving communities where everyone has what they need to prosper.

With our Montgomery County Advisory Board and volunteer grant committee members, The Community Foundation’s staff facilitate Sharing Montgomery’s rigorous annual vetting process to identify promising local organizations serving our low-income neighbors. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of donors to the Sharing Montgomery Fund and its endowment, we strategically invest in high-impact nonprofits across the county.

We are delighted to report Sharing Montgomery made $450,000 in grants this spring. Our nonprofit partners will convert those dollars into direct support for thousands of people pursuing pathways from crisis to stability, and from stability to prosperity. With a special focus on areas with the deepest disparities and highest opportunities, we specifically are supporting:

- **BASIC NEEDS**
- **ECONOMIC MOBILITY**
- **WEALTH BUILDING**

Keep reading to learn more about the work of these remarkable changemakers. To find out how you too can get involved and make a gift to advance their work, contact Anna Hargrave at 301-495-3036 ext. 161 or ahargrave@thecommunityfoundation.org.
Montgomery County Food Council brings together stakeholders committed to building a more resilient and equitable food system: local government, nonprofits, faith communities, local businesses, farmers, and residents who believe no one in our community should go to bed hungry. Impressed by its extraordinary leadership during the pandemic, Sharing Montgomery made a $100,000 multiyear commitment starting in 2022 to support the Food Council's work in helping our community recover from the pandemic and ultimately build a better, more equitable food system for all.

“Sharing Montgomery’s support has fueled our coordination of food assistance providers working to meet the needs of 100,000+ residents who are struggling to put food on the table,” explains Nanya Chiejine, executive director. “We are now taking this work to the next level as we work with the County to implement the End Childhood Hunger plan.”

AFRITHRIVE empowers African immigrants to grow and share healthy, culturally appropriate produce with residents facing food insecurity. Its training programs help families achieve self-reliance and economic stability.

CAPITAL AREA ASSET BUILDING CORPORATION provides financial literacy and matched savings programs, enabling low-income residents to become financially stable and pursue their dreams.

CARE FOR YOUR HEALTH provides culturally sensitive in-home health care to elders. Patients are served by trained staff from their own community in touch with their circumstances and needs.

COMMUNITY BRIDGES, INC. empowers girls in elementary, middle, and high schools to discover their unique identity, voice, and potential through leadership development, college and career readiness, and family support and mentoring.
The Black and Brown Coalition for Educational Equity and Excellence unites traditionally marginalized communities to demand an education system that serves all students equitably. The BBC takes aim at dismantling systemic barriers that have underserved and limited the success of Black, Brown, and students from low-income families and fights for equitable access to the resources needed to thrive. Sharing Montgomery made a $100,000 multiyear commitment starting in 2022 to support the Coalition’s work.

“Having a multiyear grant allows the Coalition to take on issues that require sustained advocacy,” explained Byron Johns, co-founder. The BBC’s recent advocacy efforts have focused on literacy inequity. Nearly 60% of Black and over 70% of Latino fifth-grade students are not reading at grade level. And their parents are often unaware. In November, the BBC brought together over 800 Black, Brown, and low-income caregivers to demand that schools “Get Reading Right, Now!”

Building on their 2022 advocacy for greater investment in literacy and math, the BBC is now leading the charge for an “early alert system” -- an easy-to-understand communication to parents when their students miss milestones -- and for the development of individualized success plans to ensure that these students catch up and keep up. “We need the voices of our entire community to make literacy a priority,” said Diego Uriburu, co-founder.
COMMUNITY FARMSHARE strives to create a local sustainable food system. It supports small scale farmers by purchasing fresh produce for low-income children and residents struggling with diet-related chronic diseases.

CRITTENTON SERVICES OF GREATER WASHINGTON helps teenage girls achieve academic success, make healthy choices, and chart their own bright futures. Its virtual and school-based programs teach teenage girls to value their education, build healthy relationships, speak up for their own needs, and explore paths toward college and careers.

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY FOOD NETWORK provides training and support for startup food businesses and healthy eating education to local students and shoppers at Crossroads Farmers Market. Its farmers market nutrition incentives allow federal nutrition benefits recipients to double the value of these benefits spent at the market.

GENERATION HOPE provides cohort and one-on-one mentoring support plus scholarships for low-income teen parents pursuing college degrees. It recently added early childhood programming to equip families with the resources necessary for their children to start kindergarten with a strong academic foundation.

CareerCatchers is dedicated to working with under and unemployed, low-income and disadvantaged residents of Montgomery County. Last year alone, CareerCatchers served over 960 people with intensive career coaching and career navigation services, 70% of whom live in areas with the deepest disparities in homeownership and income. In Spring 2023, Sharing Montgomery made a two-year $50,000 commitment to CareerCatchers to advance its goal of expanding services to over 1,000 individuals in the coming years.

“CareerCatchers is utilizing this funding to expand our basic skills classes, add small business classes, develop deeper employer ties to help clients get hired and promoted, improve our marketing, recruit more volunteers for classes and tutoring, and make further improvements,” explains Mariana “Mana” McNeill, executive director.
CollegeTracks believes that every high school graduate from Montgomery County should get the opportunity to go to and complete college. To make that a reality, its staff and volunteers provide customized support for navigating the admissions process, financial aid advising, and completion coaching, primarily for students who are first-generation-to-college, immigrants, and/or from low-income households. To date, its network of staff and volunteers has helped over 10,000 students. Sharing Montgomery made a $100,000 multiyear commitment starting in 2023 to support CollegeTracks’ expansion so that it can support even more students to build the future they want for themselves and their families.

“We believe that postsecondary education is one of the most proven pathways out of poverty, and that equitable access to it is not only a moral imperative, but an economic necessity, as it will help us build a stronger, healthier, and more just future for Montgomery County,” explains Mecha Inman, executive director.
**Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland** provides home preservation and homeownership programs that help low-income families live a more stable, self-reliant life. Its staff, homeowners, and volunteers have completed nearly 850 projects since its inception.

**Horizons Greater Washington** supports students from low-income families for nine years, from kindergarten through eighth grade. The organization works to foster a joyful environment full of academic, artistic, and athletic activities that inspire young minds and build a love of learning.

**Housing Initiative Partnership** develops innovative affordable housing. In addition, it seeks to revitalize neighborhoods and equip people to achieve their housing and financial goals through financial coaching and bilingual housing counseling.

**Housing Unlimited** provides affordable, independent housing for adults in mental health recovery in Montgomery County. The organization promotes independence and recovery by providing a stable and comfortable home, allowing tenants to focus on becoming valued and integrated members of the community.

**Impact Silver Spring** leads grassroots organizing work which seeks to bring about a more racially just and economically equitable Montgomery County by co-creating spaces based on community priorities that foster trusting relationships and build people's capacity to transform their lives, communities, and systems. In Spring 2023, Sharing Montgomery made a two-year $50,000 commitment to advance community-driven efforts that foster economic mobility and help families build the assets needed to pursue their dreams.

“Impact Silver Spring is proud to partner with Sharing Montgomery to support programs that have grown out of relationships of trust within our community and deep listening to residents. From English language classes to entrepreneur training and beyond, residents are shaping their paths to economic and social empowerment within their communities,” explains Renée Katz, acting co-executive director.
**INTERFAITH WORKS** provides emergency assistance and counseling, vocational services, food distributions, clothing, and shelter for those experiencing homelessness. With volunteers from 165 faith communities, its integrated prevention, stabilization, and empowerment programs support homeless low-income county residents.

**KINGDOM GLOBAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** operates the East County Hub which distributes food, diapers, and COVID-19 support. The organization also has other public-private partnerships that address food security, health and wellness, education, employment, and housing.

**MANNA FOOD CENTER** works to eliminate hunger through food distribution, healthy eating education, and advocacy. Its extensive network supported more than 50,000 participants over the past year, distributing 4.6 million pounds of food.

**Future Link** seeks to close the opportunity divide for first-generation-to-college, high-potential young adults (ages 18–25) by providing them with the resources, knowledge, skills, and personalized support needed to achieve their education and career goals. Annually, Future Link serves 300 students with transformative services including paid internships, career coaching, mentoring, tutoring, scholarships, and more. Sharing Montgomery is proud to make a two-year $50,000 commitment to Future Link to expand student services in their Career Coaching and Mentoring programs which empower students to change the trajectory of their lives.

“This expansion will enable Future Link to deepen employer partnerships and enhance soft-skill training, yielding educational persistence, degree attainment, and workforce entry,” explains Mindi Jacobson, executive director and co-founder.
Identity, Inc. empowers youth and their families with the social-emotional, academic, workforce, and life skills they need to succeed in the modern world. It operates at schools, in the community, and on playing fields, working to reach Latino and other historically underserved residents. Like family, Identity celebrates victories and offers extra help when something more is needed. Last year alone, Identity reached more than 45,000 Montgomery County residents.

Sharing Montgomery proudly made a $100,000 multiyear commitment starting in 2024 to Identity. “With Sharing Montgomery’s support, we will add additional career pathways to our Workforce Development offerings, and expand emotional support and substance use prevention programming. We will also begin to transform Identity’s new headquarters building it into a thriving new community center that houses programs, offers educational, recreational, and cultural activities and is a gathering spot and safe haven, like the ‘Pink House’ was for more than two decades,” says Diego Uriburu, executive director.
MARY’S CENTER provides health care, education, and social services to build healthier and stronger communities. In response to COVID-19, Mary’s Center worked to prevent the spread of the virus by offering testing and vaccinations to community members through the Greater Washington region.

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE FOUNDATION co-leads the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) program in partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools and The Universities at Shady Grove. ACES provides individualized academic coaching, scholarship opportunities, and career readiness to underrepresented high school students, for a seamless and supportive pathway to a bachelor’s degree.

MONTGOMERY MOVING FORWARD is a collective impact initiative which convenes leaders from government, business, philanthropy, education, and nonprofits to solve complex problems facing the county. As a capacity building partner, Sharing Montgomery’s grant empowers MMF’s nonprofit leaders to advocate around pressing issues that affect their clients, especially around challenges related to economic opportunity and early childhood education.

The UpCounty Hub was founded with the philosophy of providing low-income individuals and families with food and other essential social services without barriers, allowing them to maintain their privacy and dignity. Since its founding in 2020, the UpCounty Hub has grown every year, currently feeding approximately 1,100 families a week via drive-thru distributions, home deliveries, and its choice-pantry walk-in services. More recently, its services expanded to include social services, connecting residents to vital resources such as SNAP. Sharing Montgomery is proud to make a two-year $50,000 commitment to The Upcounty Hub to expand these services.

“Through our engagement with our clients, we have identified a strong need for social services in the community, including SNAP referral services. Unfortunately, many clients cannot access these due to the difficulties faced when applying online, including language, technical skills, or not having access to a computer at all,” says Grace Rivera-Oven, founder and CEO. “We will use this funding to expand our Social Services office to help close some gaps and further assist our most vulnerable and needy populations.”
**NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY (NAMI MC)** provides comprehensive support, education, advocacy, and public awareness to promote recovery so that individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.

**NONPROFIT MONTGOMERY** supports local organizations around government relations, advocacy, strategic communications, financial management, metrics tracking, and cross-sector problem solving. As a capacity building partner, Sharing Montgomery’s support will enable our direct-service grantees to receive the personalized support and connections that will help them deepen their impact.

**RAINBOW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** provides food security relief paired with other safety net services including PPE distribution, eviction and utility cutoff prevention, temporary short-term shelter, and job search and resume assistance.

**RAINBOW PLACE SHELTER** provides emergency overnight shelter to women during the hypothermia season and assists them as they transition to a better quality of life. Additionally, the organization is working to open a new year-round, LGBTQ-inclusive shelter to provide a safe haven for youth and young adults.

**RED WIGGLER COMMUNITY FARM** provides comprehensive on-farm training and education programs for adults with developmental disabilities. Half of its organic produce is donated to low-income households throughout Montgomery County.

**STEPPING STONES SHELTER** leverages partnerships to provide food and integrated essential services to low-income community members. Since inception, it has provided emergency shelter to over 1,035 Montgomery County families.