



## THE OPEN HEARTS FOUNDATION INVESTS IN CHARITIES ALIGNED WITH THE OPEN HEARTS PHILOSOPHY

*Board member and Co-Founder, Jane Seymour, invites everyone to join the Open Hearts Movement*

LOS ANGELES, October 5, 2022 – The Open Hearts Foundation is thrilled to announce its recent investments in sixteen charities across the United States. Co-Founded by award winning actress and philanthropist, Jane Seymour, OBE, these emerging charities were selected during a competitive grant process with new guidelines and an alignment with the Open Hearts Philosophy. After a month-long open request for proposals, thirty-eight charities applied and sixteen were selected to receive immediate grants.

The Open Hearts Philosophy inspires everyone to accept their challenges and look to see what can be done to help others. These sixteen emerging charities align with that philosophy through their founding principles or leaders and stretch across the United States from New York to California, the Navajo Nation in Arizona to twenty-two correctional facilities in Florida. Ted Oakley founded Foster Angels of South Texas after overcoming his own difficult upbringing and focused on helping foster children receive much needed clothing, school supplies and other basic human needs. Sophia Kozak founded Critical Mass Dance Company to help other trauma victims overcome their challenges through dance therapy after she suffered a childhood of abuse and injury and became healed through dance. Some of the other charities receiving funds were founded by small groups of women, teachers, and community members who came together as witnesses to the distress they were seeing in their neighborhoods and provide help for others who needed it most. Collectively, their work provides critical resources such as services to break cycles of abuse associated to domestic violence, food and clothing for children with no resources, diapers for struggling teen or foster parents, and wraparound services for families on the edge of experiencing homelessness. Their dedicated passion and focused commitment to turn adversity into opportunity is saving lives in their communities.

Tim Mallad, Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors, expressed, *"Over the last two and a half years, the Open Hearts Foundation developed an even deeper understanding of the importance of finding opportunity in adversity. Our community of like-minded philanthropic individuals and businesses joined together to create change for the greater good. We are thrilled to continue to provide these important grants and we are truly inspired by the work of these emerging charities. We look forward to sharing their incredible stories in the coming months."*

Jane Seymour, Co-Founder and Board member, stated, *"My mother's experience as a prisoner in a Japanese internment camp during World War II and her resilience during those very challenging times inspired the Open Hearts Philosophy. It is my vision that the work of the Open Hearts Foundation will grow the Open Hearts Philosophy into the Open Hearts Movement. Everyone is welcome to join us, open their heart, and find purpose. I am so grateful for the support of so many businesses, volunteers, and donors who sustain the Foundation's work. Equally, we are all in awe of the tireless efforts of these charities which provide hope and life-saving resources for the most vulnerable communities."*

For additional details about each grant and the charity that is benefiting, please see below or find additional information on our website: [www.openheartsfoundation.org/grant-making](http://www.openheartsfoundation.org/grant-making)

The Open Hearts Foundation is committed to the careful stewardship of our donors' contributions and requires each charity partner to submit a brief Final Report explaining how the funds were used and the impact they achieved.

### About the Open Hearts Foundation

The Open Hearts Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, empowers emerging and growing nonprofit organizations whose origins and mission are consistent with the precepts of the Open Hearts philosophy. The Foundation accelerates purpose

through its grant making and volunteerism programs curating incredible opportunities to engage hands on with philanthropic causes. The Foundation has provided more than \$1,571,545.00 in its grant making history in support of charities throughout the United States and inspires thousands of volunteers across the globe to do what they can to help others and find their unique purpose.

To learn more about the Open Hearts Foundation, visit [www.openheartsfoundation.org](http://www.openheartsfoundation.org).

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For this grant cycle, the Foundation is pleased to provide immediate grants to the following charities:

- **Assistance League Coachella Valley:** \$5,000 grant to support the school clothing and hygiene kit program for over 4,000 socioeconomically disadvantaged students in Coachella Valley of California. Founded by retired teachers who witnessed the need of these children when they were volunteering in schools, participating students will receive three shirts, a pair of shoes, six pairs of socks, six undergarments, and hygiene supplies.
- **Children of Inmates:** \$10,000 grant to provide healthy meals and snacks to children and their families during the charity's signature bonding visits. Founded by seven organizations who came together to create opportunity for children with an incarcerated parent, the charity's reunification programs have reconnected over 2,700 families with over 6,400 children in 22 Florida correctional facilities.
- **Children's Lifesaving Foundation:** \$10,000 matching grant to significantly help 35 families in their Vita Network in the Greater Los Angeles area and beyond, providing them with grocery gift cards, toiletries, needed supplies, backpacks and school supplies for their children, as well as providing support to 15 college scholarship recipients in their Care through College Program.
- **Chinle Planting Hope:** \$5,000 seed grant to support the R.E.A.D. in Beauty (Reading Empowers Adventures and Dreams) Bookmobile and literacy program, covering the costs of computers, portable chargers, and STEM activities for personal enrichment and advancement in the often-disconnected community in the Navajo Nation of Chinle, Arizona. Founded by Navajo women, many of whom live without running water or electricity, these volunteers are working together to bring basic educational resources and play spaces to the children in their community.
- **Conejo Community Outreach:** \$5,000 grant to support their Diaper Bank, distributing diapers and wipes to families in the Conejo Valley, including teen and foster parents. This volunteer run organization was founded by Moms helping other Moms provide for their children and families.
- **Creighton Community Foundation:** \$10,000 grant to support the Fresh in the Neighborhood program, distributing hunger relief food and consumable supplies for over 3,500 low-income Phoenix families. Founded by communities and individuals in the Creighton School District, the charity utilizes asset-based community development and engages its youth to create healthier communities by strengthening food access, improving life skills, and changing family nutritional patterns for the long-term.
- **Critical Mass Dance Company:** \$5,000 grant to expand their Women Empowerment program, partnering with local nonprofits and schools that work with trauma survivors to provide dance workshops and classes throughout the year. Founded by Sophia Kozak, who overcame her own trauma through dance, this East Los Angeles based charity has grown the Dance from the Heart program to serve trauma victims in partnership with over 50 organizations throughout the Greater Los Angeles area.
- **Foster Angels of South Texas:** \$10,000 grant to respond to the distressing circumstances for vulnerable foster children in South Texas, and provide them with adequate food, clothing, shelter, educational support, and positive experiences. Ted Oakley, who experienced neglect and a difficult childhood, founded Foster Angels after

years of personally buying things like shoes and clothing items for kids in foster care. Today, the charity helps 70-75 children and youths in foster care weekly in 19 counties in South Texas.

- **Home Again Los Angeles:** \$10,000 grant to operate their new program, Lifting People Up, which will positively impact the lives of 500 individuals by increasing income, attaining employment, and achieving housing stability, while their children achieve a sense of normalcy despite experiencing homelessness or being on the verge of homelessness. In 2008, founding board member Jennie Greene-Smith recognized a shortage of accessible services for situationally homeless families with children, and worked to build a coalition of community organizations to offer wrap around services which help these families achieve sustainable independence.
- **Kids Community Dental Clinic:** \$10,000 grant to expand their services to 1 to 4 new schools impacting 600 children in the Greater Los Angeles area with free dental services and oral hygiene kits to eradicate their rampant decay and prevent other serious oral health diseases. Founded by Sisters of Providence at St. Joseph Medical Center who witnessed countless dental emergencies in the ER, the charity now engages volunteer Dentists and Dental Hygienists who serve over 9,000 children each year at their schools and another 2,200 within the clinic.
- **Lending Hearts:** \$10,000 matching grant to support Lending Hearts' Integrative Oncology Wellness Program for children and young adults living with cancer and their families. This program offers free integrative care to patients and families within UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and virtual programs for all, including educational panel discussions with leaders from across the country, yoga, mindfulness, relaxation, structured courses, and fellowship opportunities. The charity was founded by Vasso Paliouras, who saw a void in services available to young patients and their families when her own sister was diagnosed with cancer as a high school student.
- **Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank:** \$10,000 grant to provide food and nutrition, relief, and caring support to those at risk in Conejo Valley, California. Founded by a group of women who witnessed the displacement and food insecurity of their neighbors, the charity has grown to become one of the largest independent food pantries in the region, serving approximately 7,500 individuals who are under-employed, seniors living on fixed incomes, disabled persons unable to work, or those experiencing persistent poverty.
- **Morrison Park Playground:** \$5,000 grant to create an inclusive all abilities play space in Agoura Hills, California where all children, disabled adults and veterans can play together. Founded by the father of Skylar Goldman, who suffers from cerebral palsy, epilepsy and is fed via a g-tube in his abdomen, the Morrison Park Playground seeks to create this new inclusive play space with the highest ADA standards applied.
- **My Sisters Place:** \$10,000 grant to support the delivery of services through the launch of a new community-based "Survivor Safety Circles" during 2023. This new initiative will bring wrap around services to welcoming and trusted community spaces, in order to support the immediate needs of domestic violence victims and survivors as well as their children in Westchester County, New York. The charity was founded by the Yonkers Women's Task Force, who was among the first to recognize and gather support for domestic violence victims in their community in the early 1970s.
- **Safe Alliance:** \$10,000 grant to expand the capacity of the Children's Program, given the growing needs of children witnessing domestic violence because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will provide basic supplies, food, and individualized therapeutic services and activities for children. Formed in 1909 by a group of businesses and leaders, Safe Alliance continues to be a community-based response charity providing hope and healing for those impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault.
- **Voices for Children Tampa Bay:** \$10,000 grant to provide every foster baby in their SWAT program with baby blankets, Boppy pillows, clothing, walkers, bassinets and necessity kits, while also providing every foster child in their Children's Need Fund with shoes, clothing, bedding, educational necessities, medical services and extracurricular activities. The charity was founded by a group of women in the court system who formed the charity to provide essential needs to foster children that the government could not.