



2023 Finalists!

Grand Avenue Club

<https://grandavenueclub.org>

The Grand Avenue Club (GAC) is a membership community that successfully helps adults experiencing mental illness achieve recovery, inclusion, and self-reliance through education, work, and community life. The culinary program is at the heart of GAC where members and staff work together to plan, prepare, and serve daily nutritious meals that meet the dietary needs of their community. An Impact100 grant would fund an extensive remodel of their culinary teaching area. This would include removing existing walls and doorways, new prep, dish, and serving areas, as well as electrical and plumbing modifications. This project will significantly impact the Club's ability to better support the mental and emotional health needs of their members in addition to improving the overall safety of this space.

Islands of Brilliance

www.islandsofbrilliance.org

Islands of Brilliance (IOB) is an organization that pioneered the use of art, creativity, and technologies to spur self-confidence, independence, and pathways to employment for autistic individuals. IOB was started by parents of an autistic child; they created an innovative model of working with autistic students using programs such as Photoshop, Illustrator and/or 3D Modeling software. Students gain skills in creative/digital design, build confidence, and learn in a safe, caring atmosphere through programming and 1:1 mentoring geared to individual needs. IOB pivoted to virtual programming during the pandemic and has subsequently been using temporary space. IOB has now leased a new permanent space to house the Brilliant Studio: A Creative Hub for Autistic Youth-which will provide a creative environment for autistic youth and young adults, parents and mentors, and an office for IOB's growing staff. As enrollments have increased six-fold from pre-pandemic levels, a flexible, state-of-the-art studio is critical for current programming as well as future expansion. The organization is requesting funds to outfit the studio with flexible furnishings and digital equipment to facilitate this life-changing learning.

Silver Spring Neighborhood Center

www.ssnc-milw.org

Silver Spring Neighborhood Center (SSNC) is the only community center serving Milwaukee's Northwest side, an area struggling with poverty, unemployment, and crime, and with limited access to health and wellness care, and quality technology. Current SSNC programs include: child day care, afterschool recreation, teen enrichment, adult employment and education, youth sports, a nurse clinic, family nights, and a food pantry. Resident surveys indicated strong interest in technology and fitness. The SSNC "Roads to Success" project has two components. The first is to create a STEM lab with robotics, coding, and science activities for youth, classes for adults, and access to technology for residents. The lab will host a First Lego League program and introduce participants to 3-D printing, technology education, and computer science. The second will be to modernize their Fitness Center with new exercise equipment to support instructional classes and provide open gym access to the community. An Impact100 grant will launch both programs and be sustained by SSNC's long history of partnerships and fundraising. Community partners, including teachers from Browning Elementary School, will lead the fitness program, and MATC/MSOE students will be engaged to conduct STEM lab programs.

The Gathering

www.thegatheringwis.org

Founded in 1982, The Gathering provides one of the largest all-volunteer meal programs in Milwaukee. Their goal is to alleviate hunger and address the root causes and related problems associated with food insecurity in Milwaukee's poorest neighborhoods. Over the years, The Gathering has become an aggregator of healthy foods from local restaurants and large companies, like Amazon, that would otherwise end up in the garbage, and serves as a distribution hub for food and meal services to other local nonprofits. Services include a Fresh Produce Preservation Project where donations of fresh fruits and vegetables from area farmers and other food sources are preserved by canning or freezing and used in Gathering winter meals when fresh produce is not available. Their request is for funds to purchase equipment and update their food storage infrastructure to enable expansion of current meal services to their own clients and of their food/meal distribution program that supports other local nonprofits.

VIA CDC

<https://viacdc.org>

VIA CDC, a long-standing community revitalization partner, whose mission is to build strong, healthy neighborhoods where all can thrive, is requesting Impact100 funds to help build two model homes, one on the north side and one on the near south side of Milwaukee. The model homes will be used to showcase a new method of affordable housing construction, Lange Urban Sustainable Housing (LUSH), to other builders, organizations, and communities. LUSH, (a cross between green building, Habitat for Humanity, Wiki House, and self-building) is a zero-waste manufacturing process, with all home parts made out of wood, a renewable and biodegradable material. After one year, the models will be sold to low income families, with those down payments creating a ripple effect to finance the homes built in the next year, and so on. The intention is to jump start a new wave of home building to help meet the dire need for affordable starter homes in Milwaukee.