

TOMORROW  
HELPING  
TODAY  
SHAPING



# 2024 IMPACT REPORT



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
Of North Florida



# THANK YOU!

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for being part of a community that chooses to *help today* while *shaping tomorrow*.



Kelly O'Keefe  
Board Chair

The **Helping Today, Shaping Tomorrow (HTST)** grants are designed to put timely resources into the hands of trusted local nonprofits, so they can respond to real needs, remove barriers, and expand what's possible for the people they serve. Each \$5,000 grant featured in this report represents a strategic investment in local solutions with lasting impact.

One year later, the results are clear. Across North Florida, these grants strengthened access to healthcare, stabilized families, supported children, expanded learning opportunities, and restored dignity during moments of challenge and transition.

These stories reflect what we believe at the Community Foundation of North Florida: when philanthropy is personal, informed, and rooted in community, it becomes transformational. Your generosity makes it possible to identify needs, invest in solutions, and amplify what works.

As you read these stories, we hope you are reminded of the difference your generosity can make. This is what it looks like when a community shows up to help today and shape tomorrow. Thank you for being part of this work, and for continuing to support organizations shaping a stronger North Florida.

*With gratitude,*

Katrina D. Rolle  
President & CEO

Kelly A. O'Keefe  
Board Chair



Katrina Rolle, JD  
President & CEO

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# A YEAR OF LOCAL IMPACT

The power of collaborative philanthropy, proving that together we can achieve more!



**A**cross North Florida, opportunity does not always arrive evenly, but generosity can.

The **Helping Today, Shaping Tomorrow** grants were created to place timely resources in the hands of trusted local nonprofits, so they can respond thoughtfully to community needs. Each investment highlighted here reflects trust in local nonprofits to meet people where they are and address challenges with compassion, creativity, and accountability.

Together, these eleven grants reached thousands of individuals, supporting health, safety, education, independence, and belonging. What follows are stories of impact that demonstrate how modest investments can create meaningful, lasting change.

## Small Grants. Big Possibilities.



## 2024 STATS



# 11

nonprofits  
supported



## THOUSANDS

of individuals served  
across the region



Every grant leveraged  
additional resources,  
partnerships, or funding



Bond Community  
Health Center, Inc.



***“When we show up where they are, it opens the door for trust, care, and real healing.”***



## Bond Community Health Center - Care That Shows Up!

**F**or many neighbors in our community, staying healthy isn't about motivation, it's about access. Transportation challenges, housing instability, and competing daily priorities can quietly pull people out of care. With support from a **Helping Today, Shaping Tomorrow** grant, Bond Community Health Center made it possible for care to come to them.

By expanding its mobile health services, Bond met patients where they were, on neighborhood streets, at community gathering places, and in moments when connection mattered most. This approach helped reconnect individuals who had fallen out of care and supported the launch of a new Men's Healthcare Initiative focused on prevention and trust-building.

One of those patients was J.D., a middle-aged

man living with multiple chronic conditions. After months of missed appointments, Bond's mobile team encountered him in the community. They provided care on the spot, rebuilt trust, and connected him with a case manager to address both medical and social needs.

“Seeing my patients in the community reminds me why this work matters,” shared a member of Bond's care team. “When we show up where they are, it opens the door for trust, care, and real healing.”

Over the year, Bond's mobile outreach reached **953 individuals**, expanding access to preventive services for men, women, and children. The increased presence also helped Bond leverage additional funding, extending the impact of this initial investment even further.

# Stability for Families Starting Over

Families maintained stable housing through emergency assistance, and critical resources were preserved so families could focus on employment, education, and long-term stability.

**F**or families arriving in North Florida after fleeing conflict and crisis, the first months are filled with both hope and uncertainty. Simple necessities such as safe transportation, essential utilities, and familiar faces can make all the difference. With support from a **HTST** grant, the **International Rescue Committee** helped families build a secure foundation as they began their new lives.

This grant allowed IRC staff to respond quickly to urgent needs, providing car seats so children could travel safely, emergency utility assistance to keep homes stable, and logistical support that eased the overwhelming transition into a new community.

One newly arrived family of ten from the Democratic Republic of Congo received groceries, furniture, and new mattresses to make their home feel safe and welcoming. The grant also helped facilitate a long-awaited family reunion with relatives in Cleveland, Ohio, reconnecting loved ones during a pivotal moment of resettlement.

Over the year, 33 children received car seats, over \$2,250 was provided in emergency utility assistance, and critical resources were preserved so families could focus on employment, education, and long-term stability.

By meeting urgent needs with care and dignity, IRC is helping families begin their new lives in North Florida with stability, connection, and renewed hope.

*\*Image is a stock photo used to protect client confidentiality.*



HEALTH, SAFETY & STABILITY  
When Basic Needs Are Met, People Can Move Forward





## Keeping Families Together Through Community



**W**hen families face crisis, isolation can deepen the challenge. **Safe Families for Children North Florida** surrounds parents and caregivers with community support, offering practical help, encouragement, and advocacy when it's needed most. A **HTST** grant strengthened this work by expanding volunteer engagement and family services across the region.

Through Circles of Support, Safe Families served more than **500 families** over the year, maintained active support for 70-75 families at any given time. Parents navigating housing instability, financial barriers, and system complexity, found consistent guidance and community, often at moments when reunification was on the line.

One father, Mr. Miller, lost custody of his children after becoming homeless. Connected through a parent advocate, Safe Families volunteers helped him secure

emergency shelter, apply for income support, and navigate housing applications. Months later, his children were reunited with him in a new home, furnished not just with essentials, but with care, dignity, and community.

The momentum created by this investment increased community engagement, strengthened partnerships, and positioned Safe Families to support even more families before crises escalate.





# Restoring Dignity So Children Can Learn

Once complete, the program will serve 10-20 families each week!



*Staff discreetly washed the student's clothing using an existing unit so the child could remain at school.*

**A**t Sabal Palm Elementary, a Community Partnership School, something as basic as clean clothes can determine whether a child shows up to school ready to learn—or stays home. With support from a **HTST** grant, **Children's Home Society of Florida** removed that barrier by developing a free, onsite family laundry program that is now open and serving families.

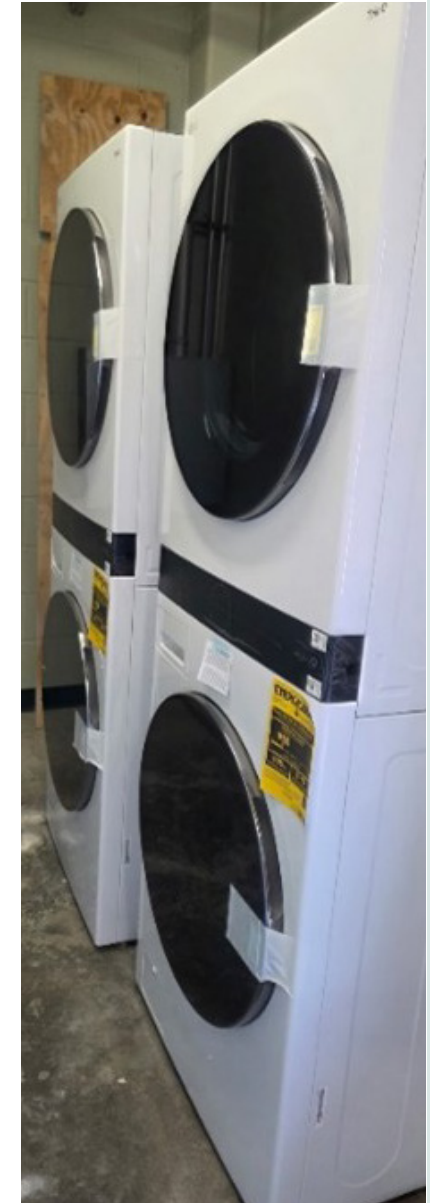
The grant supported the purchase of two commercial washer-dryer units and the creation of a supervised laundry space on campus. The result is a welcoming, dignified environment where families can access laundry services without stigma - supporting attendance, increasing confidence, and strengthening readiness to learn.

Even before the laundry room

officially opened, the impact was visible. One family with a child who has special needs struggled with consistent attendance due to lack of laundry access. Staff discreetly washed the student's clothing using an existing unit so the child could remain at school, clean, comfortable, and able to focus on learning.

Now fully operational, the program is positioned to serve **10-20 families each week**, reduce absenteeism related to clothing insecurity, increase classroom readiness, and strengthen trust between caregivers and the school community.

In small but meaningful ways, the laundry room is restoring dignity and removing barriers - ensuring that something as simple as clean clothes never stands between a child and the opportunity to learn.





# Helping Families Catch Concerns Early

**F**or many families in rural North Florida, access to early childhood screenings and resources is limited by geography. With support from a **HTST** grant, **Help Me Grow Northwest Florida** expanded developmental screening events and play-based learning opportunities in Jackson, Gulf, and Calhoun Counties, bringing critical support closer to home.

Through community-based events and Kaleidoscope Play and Learn groups, parents learned what developmental milestones look like, completed screenings alongside caring staff, and left with tools to support their child's growth.

Over the year, **65 developmental screenings** were completed, a **150% increase** in access in these underserved counties. Additionally, 50 Baby Screening Bags were purchased and filled with materials that empower parents to conduct regular developmental screening throughout their babies first year. Families

who might otherwise have gone without support were connected to resources that help children enter kindergarten healthier, stronger, and more prepared.

As one childcare director in Calhoun County shared, "Having an organization come out to us has meant the world to our families. Most things like this happen in other places, so our families do not attend."

By bringing screenings and support closer to home, Help Me Grow is helping ensure that more children begin kindergarten not only ready to learn, but ready to thrive.





# Creating Spaces Where Children Can Thrive!

A child's environment shapes how they learn, play, and grow. With support from a HTST grant, Kids Incorporated enhanced learning spaces at an Early Head Start center in Jefferson County, ensuring children and families had access to a safe, welcoming, and engaging environment.

Grant funds supported new classroom rugs, décor, and developmentally appropriate educational toys, allowing staff to fully redesign and equip two classrooms. These improvements directly served 20 children and their families, strengthening early learning experiences in a community with limited resources.

As one longtime staff member shared, "When additional funds are provided, it allows us to upgrade older items so we can give our students and families the best educational opportunities, regardless of their financial situation."

The grant also unlocked **\$20,000** in federal funding, multiplying its impact and reinforcing the organization's commitment to providing high-quality early childhood education.



By creating environments where children feel safe, supported, and inspired, Kids Incorporated is helping lay the foundation for confident learners and stronger futures.



# Helping Girls Discover Their Strength

**F**or girls navigating trauma, stress, or instability, having consistent, compassionate support can change everything. With HTST funding, **Pace Center for Girls - Tallahassee** provided vital mental health services and substance abuse prevention programming to girls who needed it most.

Over the year, **75** girls received mental health support, and **30** participated in prevention and intervention programming. Eighty percent remained engaged in ongoing outreach services, and **85%** successfully completed substance abuse prevention and intervention programming.

KW, one of the girls served, shared that counseling helped her manage stress and rebuild confidence at school. "I didn't think I had the strength to change," she said. "But Pace showed me I could."

Her journey captures what Pace strives to do every day: walk alongside girls as they build resilience, make healthier choices, and move toward brighter, more stable futures.

The visibility and momentum created by this grant also strengthened community partnerships, increased volunteer and local supporter engagement, and sparked new collaborations with service providers who contributed in-kind support for counseling and prevention programs- ensuring that even more girls can access the care and encouragement they need.

*"I didn't think I had the strength to change, but Pace showed me I could."*





# Nourishing Independence and Well-Being

**CONFIDENCE, INDEPENDENCE & OPPORTUNITY**  
Belonging builds belief and belief changes futures

**F**or adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, food insecurity can quietly undermine independence. A HTST grant helped **Independence Landing** expand its on-site meal program to include Fridays and Saturdays, ensuring residents had reliable access to healthy, affordable meals.

This expansion provided more than 750 additional meals, easing financial strain and supporting residents' physical health and emotional well-being. One resident often skipped meals at the end of the month before the expansion.

"Having these meals takes a huge weight off my shoulders," he shared. "It helps me stay healthy so I can focus at work and make good choices." Staff have since noticed increased energy, confidence, and community engagement, demonstrating how consistent nutrition supports independence.

The visibility and momentum created by this grant also helped Independence Landing leverage additional community support, encouraging increased volunteer participation and additional donor contributions to sustain and expand the meal program.



*"It helps me stay healthy so I can focus at work and make good choices."*



*"I didn't know I could build something that moves!"*

# Igniting Curiosity Through STEM

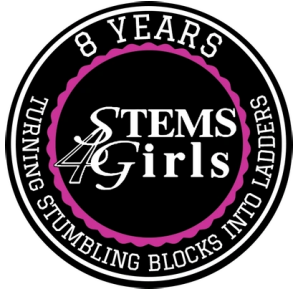
**F**or many young learners, hands-on **STEM** experiences open doors they never knew existed. With support from a **HTST** grant, **Scientiae** expanded its STEM Foundations for Early Learners and programming, providing hands-on STEM enrichment to K-5 students in underserved communities.

Scientiae served more than 60 K-5 students through after school and summer programs. the grant provided ten full scholarships for students from low-income households, expanded programming to an additional site, and distributed more than 75 STEM kits for hands-on learning. These resources allowed students to engage in meaningful STEM activities, many for the first time, while fostering academic growth, confidence, and curiosity in a safe and enriching environment.

Linda, a second-grade student, attended through a scholarship for students and discovered a new sense of confidence while building a balloon-powered car. "I didn't know I could build something that moves!" she exclaimed. Soon, she was helping classmates and talking about becoming an engineer.

Scientiae leveraged additional resources and community support by partnering with a local robotics nonprofit that provided material and volunteer mentors, secured matching gifts from two local donors to fund additional scholarships and STEM kits, and recruited university student volunteers from FAMU and FSU, increasing instructional support. By expanding access and encouragement, Scientiae is helping students discover what they are capable of and inspiring them to imagine futures beyond their reach.





# Supporting Girls as They Grow and Succeed

**S**TEMS4Girls believes that access to learning, nourishment, and encouragement can change a child's trajectory. With HTST support, the organization continued providing STEM literacy, tutoring, meals, and enrichment for children in under-resourced communities, creating a consistent, supportive space where students could build both skills and confidence.

Throughout the academic year, approximately 25 students participated in afterschool programming. Nearly every student advanced to the next grade level, an outcome supported by consistent tutoring, improved nutrition, and a caring learning environment. Grant funds helped provide meals, purchase instructional supplies and materials, and host recognition celebrations that affirmed students' hard work and growth.

A parent volunteer described the program as "such a gift" noting the patience, kindness, and genuine desire to help students grow into future engineers. She shared how meaningful it has been for her daughter and expressed gratitude for the belief and encouragement shown to participants.

By strengthening both students and community partnerships, STEMS4Girls is helping children see themselves not only as learners, but as future leaders in STEM fields.





# Opening Doors to Creativity and Belonging



In rural communities, access to arts education can be limited, but its impact is profound. With HTST support, **Gadsden Arts Center & Museum** expanded free, high-quality arts programming for children and families across Gadsden County.

Through Free Family Saturdays, Art @ Home Kits, camps, school partnerships, and field trips, the museum served **more than 2,000 children and families**, distributed over 700 Art @ Home Kits and welcomed many first time visitors.

One young family proudly shared that the museum had become their son's favorite place. As their five-year-old moved eagerly from painting to painting, his parents watched him create, explore, and belong. In the ArtZone, he spent hours making his own artwork before leaving with an Art @ Home Kit tucked under his arm, already asking when they could return.

These experiences spark curiosity, strengthen family connections, and build lifelong appreciation for the arts—ensuring creativity is not a luxury, but an accessible and welcoming part of community life.



# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

How community generosity continues to shape tomorrow



**T**hese stories represent what's possible when generosity meets community wisdom. Across North Florida, local nonprofits are responding to real needs with compassion, creativity, and care - because people like you choose to invest close to home.

The Impact shared in these pages did not end with a single grant cycle, it continues in classrooms, clinics, kitchens, neighborhoods and gathering places across our region. Each investment strengthens the fabric of our community and creates momentum that carries forward.

If a story resonated with you, we invite you to learn more about the organization behind it, share what moved you most, and explore how your philanthropic goals can align with the needs and opportunities shaping North Florida's future.



**The Community  
Foundation of North  
Florida exists to  
connect generosity  
with possibility –  
today, tomorrow, and  
for generations  
to come.**

When we bring people together around shared challenges,  
we unlock the potential for lasting community solutions.



TOMORROW  
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SHAPING



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