

## Press Release

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## FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FALL 2020 AWARDS

The Otto Schoitz Foundation is pleased to announce the award of \$690,865 to organizations aligned with the mission of *improving the health and wellbeing* of the Cedar Valley. As the health crisis and its economic disruption continue, demand for services offered by numerous non-profit organizations has surged. The innovative and proactive ways in which these organizations have responded is remarkable; especially given that most are simultaneously experiencing declines in their available organizational human and financial resources. To assist our non-profit partners, the Otto Schoitz Foundation established the Fall 2020 grant cycle to prioritize COVID-19 recovery efforts, particularly for community non-profit organizations providing basic needs and other supportive services to vulnerable populations.

With this announcement, the Otto Schoitz Foundation has gifted \$7.6 million to the Cedar Valley community since its 2016 inception.

Details of the Foundation's Fall 2020 awards include:

**Catholic Charities** will receive \$50,000 for Operation Help, a program designed to coordinate with other agencies to best meet the service gaps for those economically impacted by COVID-19.

**Cedar Valley Angels** was awarded \$35,000 to continue supporting children in foster care and their foster families through positive caring relationships as well as material supports, an area of need that has grown during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Communities in Schools of Mid-America** was awarded \$10,000 to continue their work at George Washington Carver Academy and Central Middle School connecting at-risk students with community resources to overcome barriers and stay in school.

**EMBARC | Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center** will receive \$67,000 to engage youth from the refugee and immigrant community in becoming Youth Navigators. These Navigators will help families with digital literacy, online learning, and access to basic resources.

**Eye of the Needle** was awarded \$25,000 to provide emergency relief to those experiencing economic challenges or other serious hardships in their lives by providing emergency relief ranging from food and transportation assistance to work attire and school uniforms.

**Family YMCA of Black Hawk County** will receive \$60,000 to support operations and their ability to respond rapidly and effectively to the growing childcare needs resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.

**Friends of the Family** was awarded \$45,000 to support survivors of violence from experiencing homelessness and/or help shorten the time spent in homelessness by providing rapid rental and utility assistance.

**IJAG | Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates** will receive \$20,000 to support underserved students through daily tutoring, counseling, and mentoring as they progress towards graduation as well as career and post-secondary planning.

**Jesse Cosby Neighborhood Center** will receive \$100,000 to increase staff capacity and provide essential assistance to families in need of safe and stable housing during the COVID-19 crisis.

**Love INC of the Cedar Valley** was awarded \$10,000 to help individuals in need of medical supplies, eyeglasses, and transportation to medical appointments as well as provide support with utilities and other essential needs.

**North Star Community Services** was awarded \$15,000 for technology and equipment updates that will allow them to better serve their clients through virtual means during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

**Northeast Iowa Food Bank** was awarded \$50,000 to help meet the growing meal gap and need for nutritious food for households in Black Hawk County that have been negatively impacted by the current public health crisis and subsequent economic downturn.

**Operation Threshold** was awarded \$50,000 to provide more in-depth assistance, case management or home visitation programming to help struggling households identify, prioritize, and access needed services.

**Riverview Center** was awarded \$33,865 to continue providing important services for survivors of sexual or domestic violence including 24/7 in-person crisis response and intervention at police stations and emergency rooms as well as ongoing advocacy, therapy, and gap assistance for basic needs.

**SuccessLink** was awarded \$20,000 for the Young Parents Together program, a program that supports teen parents experiencing food insecurity, barriers to transportation, mental health concerns and a lack of prenatal and parenting education and support.

**Waterloo Schools Foundation** was awarded \$100,000 to support the increased needs of students and teachers during this time, through adequate technology, social-emotional support and classroom supplies needed to ensure a safe learning environment for all.

The Foundation is extremely pleased to partner with these organizations in combating the negative effects of the COVID-19 public health crisis on individuals and families in the Cedar Valley.

In the coming months, qualifying organizations may submit Letters of Intent for the Spring 2021 Grant Cycle via the Otto Schoitz Foundation's online grant management system. Interested parties can stay abreast of important deadlines by visiting the Foundation's website at [www.ottoschoitzfoundation.org](http://www.ottoschoitzfoundation.org).