



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**The Neighborhood Leadership
Development Program**

A Program of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Enclosed you will find two sections detailing different aspects of The Neighborhood Leadership Development Program (NLDP)'s programming: a Demographic Profile with statistics for our program graduates from Cohorts I through XVII; and, a Graduate Grant Program summary for the completed 2024 grants.



Section

Page No.

**DEMOGRAPHIC
PROFILE**

2

**GRADUATE GRANT
PROGRAM REPORT**

7



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Pictured above: Cohort XVII with their art projects following a stop on our Neighborhood Tour.

The Demographic Profile outlines the program graduates from Cohorts I through XVII.

Each cohort is comprised of approximately 22 engaged community leaders actively serving Cleveland neighborhoods. NLDP participants vary in age, educational background and more.

NLDP AT-A-GLANCE

18

NLDP is an 18-year-old neighborhood leadership training program.

332

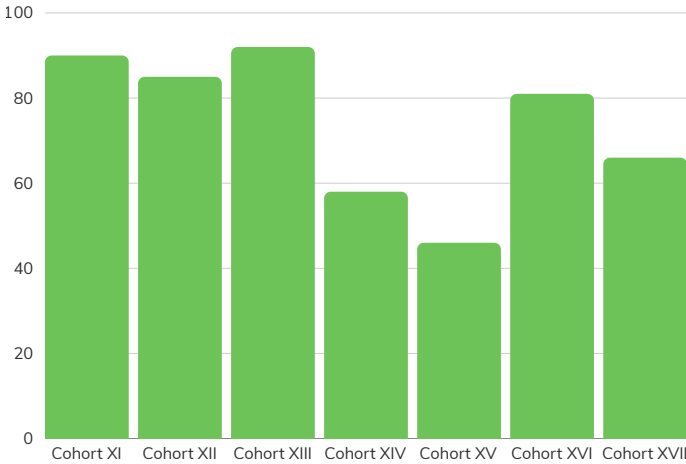
There are 332 graduates of NLDP active in every neighborhood of Cleveland.

1/3

One out of three applicants is selected to participate in NLDP.

16

NLDP has 16 skills-based sessions that take place from September through May.



66

The Neighborhood Leadership Development Program received 66 applications in 2024 for Cohort XVII, with 22 participants being selected for the cohort.



95%

The average session attendance rate for NLDP's recent Cohort XVII participants was 95%.

GRADUATE ENGAGEMENT

A key component of the program's sustainability and durability is the measure of how many graduates remain actively involved in community improvement activities and to what degree graduates collaborate with each other. NLDP promotes graduate engagement and collaboration through a variety of mechanisms including networking events, social media and one-on-one meetings. NLDP measures continued community engagement by surveying graduates during individual meetings. The figures below reflect the results of a survey of the graduates from 2024-2025.



50%

of NLDP graduates are working on the same project as when they began in NLDP



60%

of NLDP graduates are collaborating with fellow graduates



91%

of NLDP graduates are still engaged in community work



37%

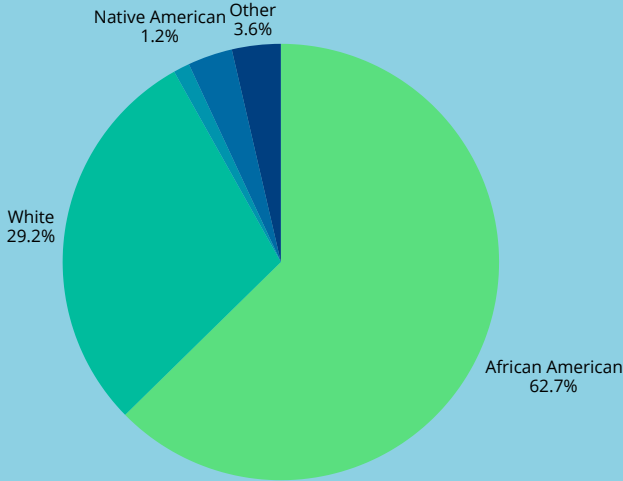
of NLDP graduates are serving on one or more non-profit boards

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

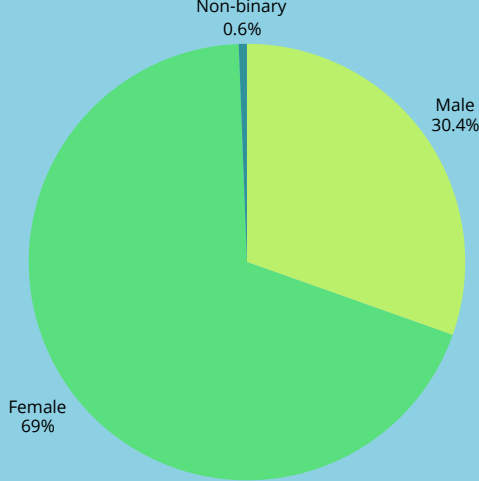
GRADUATES, COHORTS I-XVII

Ages of participants and graduates vary from mid-20's to mid-70's. NLDP participants come from a wide range of educational backgrounds, and there is no educational requirement to participate. NLDP maintains a focus on improving neighborhood leadership in the City of Cleveland. Participants work on projects and programs throughout the city. The vast majority of graduates reside in the City of Cleveland, with the remainder residing in inner-ring suburbs.

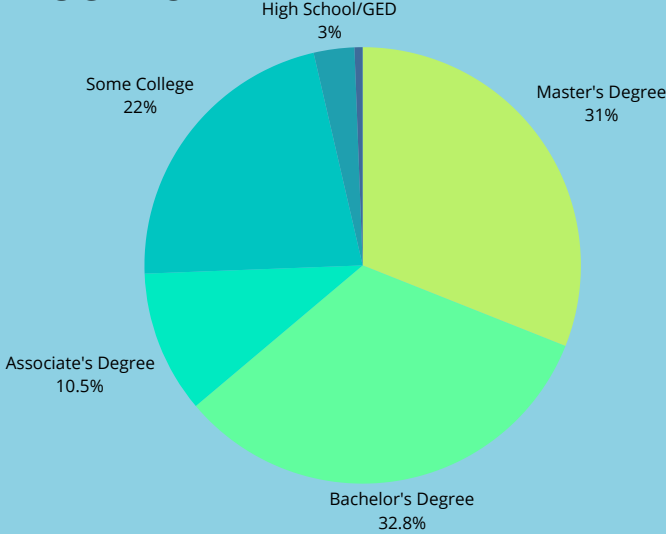
RACE



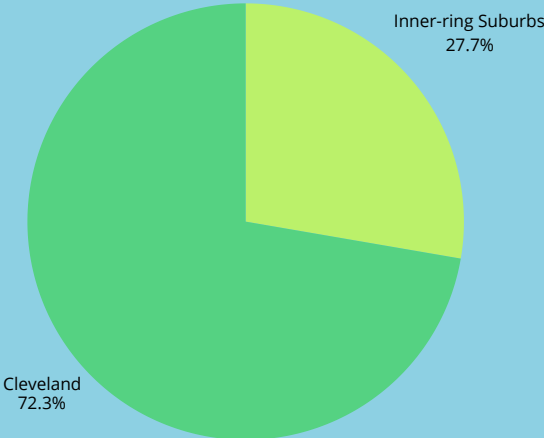
GENDER



EDUCATION



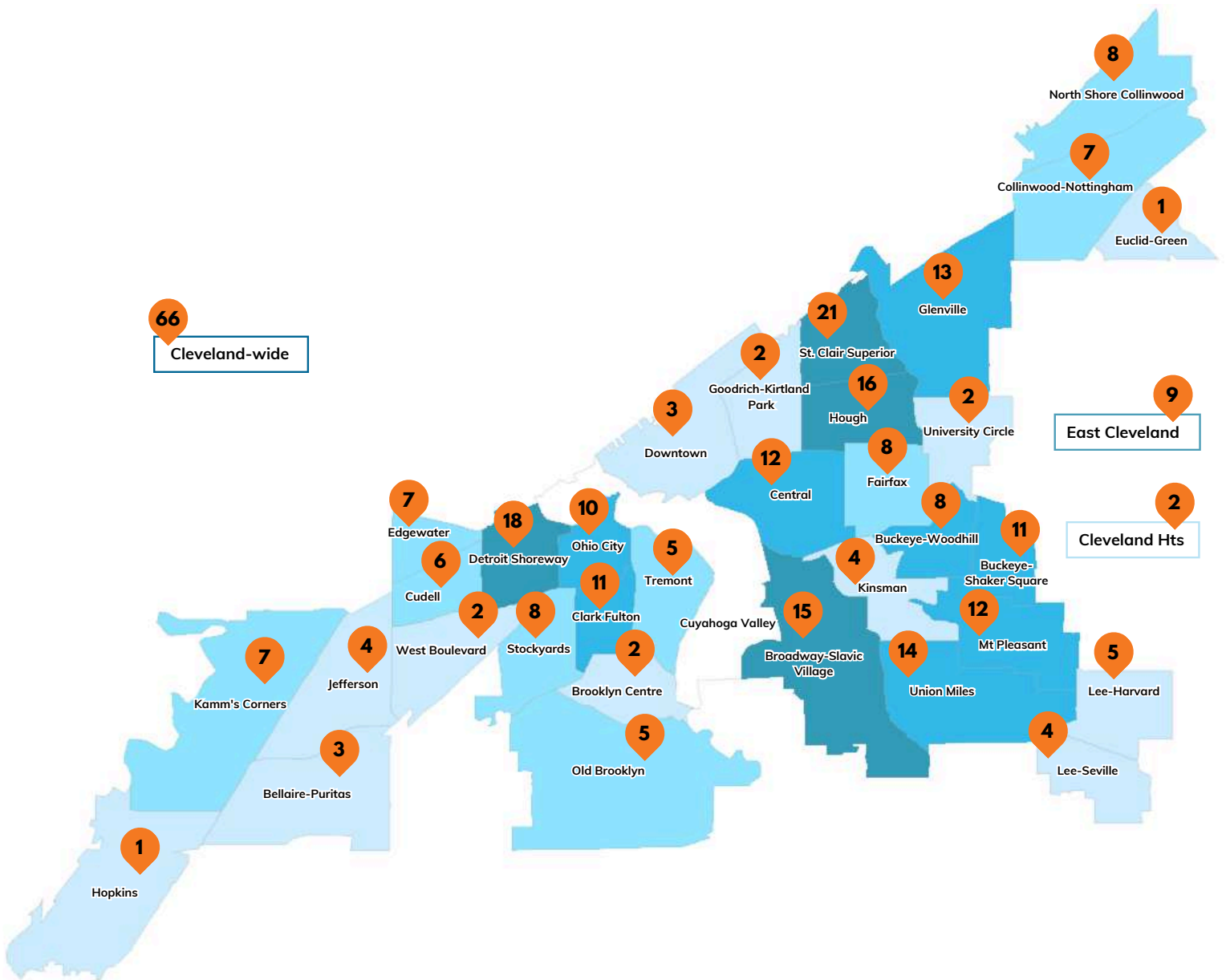
RESIDENCE



NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS MAP

GRADUATES, COHORTS I-XVII

NLDP graduates are serving every neighborhood in Cleveland and some inner-ring suburbs. Below is a map showcasing where graduates from Cohorts I-XVII are working, and how many graduate-led projects are in each neighborhood.





GRADUATE GRANT PROGRAM REPORT

Pictured above: A conversation about police and community relations as part of the Reverse RideAlong grant.

The Graduate Grant Final Report includes information from reports submitted by NLDP Graduate Grantees during the 2024 grant cycle.

At the time of this writing, NLDP's Graduate Grant Program has awarded over \$470,000 in grant funds to graduate projects since the program's inception in 2013, impacting 76% of Cleveland's neighborhoods. Even as we have grown the program, the need for Graduate Grants continues to outpace available funds.

GRADUATE SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM REPORT

The Graduate Support Grant Program is designed to assist NLDP's developing leaders by providing grant support to their neighborhoods and to increase the leadership capacity of the graduates. Enclosed you will find a summary of NLDP's 2024 Graduate Support Grant Program awards. The final reports in this document will outline each grantee's project and how they utilized the NLDP Graduate Grant funds.

Total Grant Funds Awarded: \$150,000



GWENDOLYN GARTH – NLDP COHORT VI – KINGS & QUEENS OF ART – CLEVELAND

GRANT AWARD: \$2,500

Kings & Queens of Art (KQOA) is a non-profit art service organization composed of artists of all disciplines, with a special focus on artists from the re-entry sector (presently and/or formerly incarcerated). KQOA's mission is to build a network of artists and resources that support a vibrant arts environment in a neighborhood context. "The Art Palace on Wheels" A Mobile Art Gallery and Classroom: Art & Literacy Campaign is designed to be a bridge for the separation between urban citizens and returning citizens and to bring all Cleveland residents up to a standard reading level.



DELESIA ROBINSON – NLDP COHORT IX – PRIDE AMONG OUR DAUGHTERS AND SISTERS – EAST CLEVELAND

GRANT AWARD: \$2,500

Pride Among Daughters and Sisters (PADS) is a community-based nonprofit dedicated to making a variety of feminine hygiene products accessible to women who cannot afford them. PADS' mission is to provide sanitary pads, tampons, incontinent supplies and other feminine hygiene products to underserved girls, youth and adult women to promote pride, dignity and confidence. To reach, teach and empower a key part of their target group, PADS led a workshop for 20 young ladies that included a presentation and discussions with certified health practitioners, breakout sessions, lunch and a takeaway "goody bag."

GRADUATE SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM REPORT (CONT.)



JOSEPH BLACK – NLDP COHORT VIII – REVERSE RIDEALONG – CLEVELAND

GRANT AWARD: \$5,000

The Reverse RideAlong (RRA) is a community-driven initiative that transforms the conventional police ride-along model, empowering residents to lead community activities for service providers unfamiliar with specific neighborhoods. The primary objective is to actively engage community members as authorities in their own neighborhoods, deliberately showcasing assets that directly or indirectly impact service delivery. The overarching goal of these interactions is to foster community building by forging authentic relationships between residents and service providers. The RRA holds significance as it employs relationship-building strategies to deconstruct power dynamics and mitigate bias.



MARY KAUFFMAN – NLDP COHORT VIII – TECHBOOM – BUCKEYE-SHAKER & SLAVIC VILLAGE

GRANT AWARD: \$5,000

The SilverLINK project aims to foster a vibrant and connected community for residents, promoting friendships, learning and overall happiness. Currently, the SilverLINK project is active in the Winpisinger and Alexia Manor-Lourexis Apartment communities. The project established a Resident Learning Station in each community equipped with user-friendly technology, allowing residents seamless access to communication tools and educational resources. In-person activities primarily occur in communal spaces between morning and early evening hours, Monday to Friday. Online activities are available throughout the day, providing flexibility for residents to participate from any internet connected space or device, whether at their apartment, doctor's office or community center.



DAMEYONNA WILLIS – NLDP COHORT XII – QUEEN I AM – CLEVELAND

GRANT AWARD: \$5,000

Queen IAM serves young ladies ages 7-17 years old by providing social and emotional curriculum combined with interactive activities and projects. Their curriculum exposes young ladies to four core areas: college and career readiness, service learning, financial literacy and health and wellness. Between Queen IAM's empowerment center and afterschool partnerships, the organization services 150 girls daily. The goal of this specific project, Girl's Girl, was to create ongoing safe spaces for girls to learn the value of sisterhood and mentorship through connecting 15 women (mentors) with 15 young ladies (mentees) to build stronger relationships across ages.

GRADUATE SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM REPORT (CONT.)



HOLLY DAVENPORT – NLDP COHORT XI – A HEART’S DESIRE – COLLINWOOD

GRANT AWARD: \$5,000

Through a collaboration with A Heart’s Desire, The Cobra Den is a free 12-week after-school youth sports program that operates twice a week for eight weeks. The Cobra Den is dedicated to supporting social, emotional, cognitive and academic development while promoting physical health and providing a safe and supportive environment for children ages 6-14 years old. After the school year ends, The Cobra Den transitions into a 3-day summer camp. The Cobra Den is sponsored by It’s Not A Moment, It’s a Movement, a non-profit led by NLDP graduate Kyle Earley. Holly connects her passion of addressing food insecurity through feeding the youth and families of this program.



CHINETHA HALL – NLDP COHORT XI – HASANI MANAGEMENT INC. – CLEVELAND

GRANT AWARD: \$5,000

Hasani Garden Camp is a horticultural-based program offering hands-on learning experiences that foster youth development in gardening, nutrition and environmental awareness. Their curriculum-based camp provides a nurturing environment, catering to a diverse range of youth, including those with special needs. Their projects address food insecurities, promote healthy mental practices and violence prevention and also include social emotional learning activities to empower youth with knowledge about sustainability, environmental stewardship, disaster preparedness, and artistic expression through art therapy. Their camp serves as both an educational haven and a place for enjoyment, cultivating learning that sparks curiosity and engagement.



ERIKA ERVIN-ACY – NLDP COHORT XIII – GARDENING IN THE DISTRICT – ST. CLAIR SUPERIOR & GLENVILLE

GRANT AWARD: \$7,600

Gardening in the District prepares neighborhood youth for learning in the coming school year to help them feel confident starting a new journey and to give them hope to prosper in all that they do. Every year since the start of their Bookbag and School Supply events, Gardening in the District has reached at least 100 young people throughout the community. The event includes more than just bookbags and school supplies, offering neighborhood youth haircuts or braids, prepared food at the event, and fresh fruits, vegetables and snacks to take home.

GRADUATE SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM REPORT (CONT.)



JOSIAH BRITT – NLDP COHORT XIV – CREATIVEXPRESS – CLEVELAND

GRANT AWARD: \$10,000

CollectivExpress' myDot: Period Poverty Campaign seeks to address the lack of menstrual health resources and education in Cleveland. myDot fights against period poverty by providing pads and menstrual health information for those newer to menstruating, and building partnerships with social service organizations as an additional layer of support. When they entered the campaign's third year, they drafted several goals to further their efforts and create sustainability for the program, including assembling and distributing 1000 Pink Packs, collaborating with more NLDP graduates and providing five menstruation health education programs, engaging at least 100 menstruating aged students at partner schools.



SARAH MURPHY – NLDP COHORT XV – THE EDNA HOUSE – CLEVELAND

GRANT AWARD: \$10,000

Born of the vision of four sober women, the mission of The Edna House is to give women an opportunity to recover from alcohol and drug addiction by providing a safe, sober place to live and to learn life skills to maintain 12-step based sobriety throughout their lifetime. This grant enabled The Edna House to supply essential items such as ibuprofen, cold medicine, antacids, and feminine products, such as Monistat. Additionally, it allowed them to provide hair care products and laundry services for their residents, who number up to 47 when they are at full capacity.



DENNIS KNOWLES – NLDP COHORT VIII – THE FISHING FOUNDATION – CLEVELAND

GRANT AWARD: \$10,000

The Fishing Foundation's summer fishing program provides teens an opportunity to participate in a sport that can lead to something that they can do for the rest of their lives – fishing. The fourth most popular sport in the U.S., fishing is something that participants expressed a longtime desire to do, but never had an opportunity or the proper education and equipment. Training occurs in four specific areas: aquatic education, casting, water safety and identifying local fish species. Sustainability through "catch and release" is also practiced. Attendees receive a t-shirt, refreshments, lunch, a rod and reel and an instructional manual.

GRADUATE SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM REPORT (CONT.)



CHARMAINE JORDAN – NLDP COHORT VIII – MEN & WOMEN OF CENTRAL – CENTRAL

GRANT AWARD: \$10,000

Hosted by the Men & Women of Central (MWOC), the Central Youth Leadership Council is an after-school mentoring program for teens 13-18 years old. Program participants are required to attend 8-10 training and educational sessions that will define the program foundations and provide leadership development training. Sessions take place at Friendly Inn Settlement House and are facilitated by MWOC staff and guest speakers. Trainings consist of leadership development, the power of civic engagement, history of Central, identifying community projects, and more. Students also attend community council meetings and volunteer at community events.



LETITIA LOPEZ – NLDP COHORT XI – JULIA DE BURGOS CULTURAL ARTS CENTER – BROOKLYN CENTRE

GRANT AWARD: \$12,200

Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center transforms lives by preserving, educating and promoting Latino heritage through the teaching and practice of history, culture, the visual, performing and literary arts. Programming at Julia de Burgos consists of Family Art Nights, Youth Art Classes (led by local Latino artists), Miss Latina Image Leadership Program, dance classes, book clubs and more. Special Latino events are also hosted there, and they are developing a Unidos por el Arte Artist Initiative that seeks to support local Latino artists through micro-grants, teaching opportunities, studio space and more.



TONYA PERKINS-STOUDERMIRE – NLDP COHORT IX – BESSIE'S ANGELS – CLEVELAND

GRANT AWARD: \$12,200

Bessie's Angels, a nonprofit based in Cleveland, Ohio, dedicated to nurturing, empowering, and educating young women who have experienced the foster care system. They also provide low-income housing to support these young women in building stable lives. Many of the girls they serve come from low-income backgrounds, with some living below the poverty line. Their warm and welcoming homes offer the young women stability and a sense of belonging. In 2024, Bessie's Angels had the siding redone on one of their homes, eliminating lead base paint issues. They also expanded their services to serve young women with children.

GRADUATE SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM REPORT (CONT.)



RICHARD GOUDREAU – NLDP COHORT IX – HARVARD COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER – CLEVELAND

GRANT AWARD: \$13,000

The Harvard Community Services Center is home to the NLDP Honor Park, a park of memorial trees that are dedicated to the memory of NLDP graduates who have passed away. The NLDP Honor Park is a place where families, friends and others can come to visit and reflect on the memory of their loved ones. The NLDP Honor Park serves as a constant reminder of the legacies and works of the NLDP graduate community, along with providing an even more beautified Harvard Community Services Center. The grant funds have also provided assistance to the Harvard Community Services Center in updating their exterior area in terms of landscaping, trees, bushes and other greenery that helps make the community center more approachable and pleasing to the eyes in the community.



STEPHANIE LASSITER – NLDP COHORT VI – ART OF ME – MT. PLEASANT

GRANT AWARD: \$15,000

The mission of Art of Me is to share stories of hope through art, writing and film by working with youth to create stories of hope that will inspire the community to make choices to challenge the social determinants of health that are preventing them from living healthy lives. In 2019, Art of Me began to teach youth film and media skills through storytelling. Youth are first given the prompt “What does power and community mean to me?” and are then given the directive to write a story. The winning story is made into a movie with local film professionals who work with the youth to train them on using the proper film equipment. The youth also lead community screenings and talk about change in the community. The other stories that were not selected to be filmed into a movie become part of a podcast or are published in Art of Me’s digital magazines.



BECCA BRITTON – NLDP COHORT II – NEIGHBORHOOD PETS OUTREACH & RESOURCE CENTER – CLEVELAND

GRANT AWARD: \$20,000

The Neighborhood Pets Food Pantry provides their clients, all of whom are Cleveland area families with low-income, with access to pet food and cat litter assistance between 3-5 days per week. Their clients were able to come to the Neighborhood Pets Resource Center on their open days (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday) and were also able to request food at their pet’s wellness appointments (held on various Wednesdays and Fridays). Clients received one gallon bag of dog food per dog and one quart bag of food per cat, up to a maximum of 4 bags of each type of food.