

Mutual of America Foundation

# 2023 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Recognizing People  
Working Together to Build  
Better Communities





“ Mutual of America has provided retirement services and investments to thousands of nonprofit and for-profit organizations across the country for nearly 80 years. Just as important, we are committed to giving back and to making a difference in the local communities where we live and work.”

*—John R. Greed,  
Chairman, President and  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Mutual of America  
Financial Group*

# ABOUT MUTUAL OF AMERICA FINANCIAL GROUP

Mutual of America Financial Group is a leading provider of retirement and investment services. We offer personalized service at a competitive price to help retirement plan participants and individuals build and preserve assets for a financially secure future. Integrity, prudence and reliability are the values that have guided us since our inception in 1945, and that continue to serve our customers and our Company well.

We believe the power of community can foster a healthier, more productive and more inclusive society. This strong sense of social responsibility is seen in our customer-first attitude and in the many ways that we care for and give back to the communities we serve throughout the U.S. Together with the Mutual of America Foundation, our Company's philanthropic arm, we are working to shape a more promising future by helping to address some of the most pressing issues in the country today.

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A Message from John R. Greed

# PARTNERING TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE



When I think about what sets Mutual of America apart as a retirement services provider, the enduring clarity of our purpose immediately comes to mind.

In 1945, Mutual of America Financial Group (then known as the National Health & Welfare Retirement Association) was founded by an exceptional group of business leaders who were dedicated to supporting the nonprofit social sector and believed that every worker deserves a financially secure and dignified retirement.

For nearly 80 years, we have remained committed to providing the tools and resources workers need to take control of their finances so they can meet today's challenges and achieve tomorrow's dreams. But our dedication to making a difference in the lives of our customers doesn't end with the high-quality retirement plans and outstanding services we provide to them. Our strong sense of social responsibility is evident in the ways in which we proudly give back to the diverse communities across America where we live and work.

As Mutual of America's commitment to uplifting the lives of Americans

across all walks of life continues, I am proud to welcome Sara Wiencken in her new role as Vice President of Philanthropic Relations. Sara, who joined Mutual of America nearly 13 years ago, most recently served as Regional Vice President in charge of our local sales and service operations in Indiana and Kentucky. She will be working closely with Lisa Loughry, Chair of the Mutual of America Foundation, to deepen and grow our partnerships and to engage with nonprofit social sector organizations that are working to effect positive change in communities across the country.

Sara will also play a key role in helping us create more opportunities to expand the impact of the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award. Created in 1996, the Community Partnership Award annually honors nonprofit organizations that, in partnership with the public and private sectors, are creating innovative programs to address systemic and other barriers that prevent members of their local communities from accessing the opportunities and services they need to thrive. Today, the Community Partnership Award has become one of the most prestigious and coveted national awards in the country.

The importance of its impact can be seen in the Community Partnership Award profiles that follow. As we celebrate the achievements of this

year's six winning partnerships, I am honored to showcase how they are leading the way in helping to improve the lives of individuals and families in their communities.



John R. Greed  
Chairman, President and  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mutual of America Financial Group



**Created in 1996, the Community Partnership Award annually honors nonprofit organizations that, in partnership with the public and private sectors, are creating innovative programs to address systemic and other barriers that prevent members of their local communities from accessing the opportunities and services they need to thrive.”**

Q&A with Lisa Loughry  
and Sara Wiencken

## USING OUR VALUES FOR THE GREATER GOOD



Now in her second year as Chair of the Mutual of America Foundation, Lisa Loughry recently shared her plans for the Foundation and its Community Partnership Award. Joining her was Sara Wiencken, who was appointed Vice President of Philanthropic Relations this past January.

### **What are you looking forward to this year regarding the Foundation?**

**Lisa Loughry:** I'm excited that Sara has joined the team, and I'm looking forward to working with her to advance the Foundation's mission, deepen and grow its partnerships, and shape its philanthropic impact. She's been with Mutual of America for more than 12 years, most recently as Regional Vice President of our Sales and Operations team, so she knows the Company well. And many of her clients were nonprofit organizations, so she understands their unique needs and challenges, and she brings a caring approach to her work.

**Sara Wiencken:** I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to celebrate and promote the Foundation and its long-standing tradition of supporting the nonprofit sector. And I'm looking forward to helping it evolve in meaningful ways that enable our employees, clients and nonprofit partners to lift up and transform their respective communities for the greater good. It's my dream job come true!

**The Community Partnership Award is central to the Foundation's work. What are some plans you have in mind for this prestigious award?**

**Lisa Loughry:** We have a lot of exciting things in the works, including exploring ways to grow the Community Partnership Award and recognize even more nonprofit organizations that are working to address pressing social justice issues such as poverty, homelessness and joblessness. Innovative nonprofits like our Community Partnership Award winners have never had a bigger role to play in helping to move our communities forward. At the same time, they've never needed more support. We're carefully considering how we can extend the value that the Community Partnership Award brings to these organizations.

**Sara Wiencken:** We're also developing opportunities to connect all of our award winners with each other. We're creating a network that brings these remarkable nonprofit leaders together to share their experiences and successes, as well as their challenges and best practices, in the

service of building valuable connections that might inspire them on their journeys to even greater impact.

**How is the Foundation committed to making a positive, lasting impact?**

**Lisa Loughry:** I recently spoke with a past winner, who shared that the Community Partnership Award continues to benefit their organization long after the financial award was put to good use. She said that earning recognition from a national organization like Mutual of America has helped them to open doors with donors and to continue to dream big, even when faced with significant challenges.

**Sara Wiencken:** Hearing feedback like this furthers our belief that, while the financial awards given are beneficial for these organizations, building and strengthening relationships can be just as impactful. This year, we're hosting "hometown" celebrations in all of the 2023 winners' communities to bring greater local awareness to these organizations' remarkable achievements and to engage civic and business leaders to help them to do even more.

**Lisa Loughry:** Sara and I are proud to be part of a Company that is dedicated to using its resources to help support and extend the work and impact of these essential nonprofit organizations.

# ABOUT THE MUTUAL OF AMERICA FOUNDATION COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD



2022 Community Partnership Award Event (l-r): Brian Severin, Senior Executive Vice President and CMO, Mutual of America Financial Group; Lisa Loughry, Chair, Mutual of America Foundation; Lori Stevens, Founder and Executive Director of Patriot PAWS Service Dogs; John R. Greed, Chairman, President and CEO, Mutual of America Financial Group.

The Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award was created in 1996. Each year, we honor nonprofit organizations from across the country that are helping to move our nation forward by building healthier, more equitable communities. Now in its 28th year, this prestigious award encourages nonprofits that work in partnership with public, private and other social sector organizations to demonstrate:

1. The measurable impact their program is having on the communities it serves.
2. What they are doing to replicate and share their program for the benefit of other local communities.

3. How they are innovating new approaches to meeting new and evolving community needs.

In 2023, an independent committee selected six Community Partnership Award winners from more than 800 organizations that applied for an award. From this group:

- **One organization received the Thomas J. Moran Award**, which is given to the national award-winning program. The Thomas J. Moran Award-winning organization received \$100,000 and a documentary video about its program. Past winners have used their video as

# 800+

Nonprofits that applied for the 2023 Community Partnership Award

# 6

2023 Community Partnership Award winners

# 262

Community Partnership Award recipients honored since 1996



a valuable tool to expand public awareness of their work and to help attract additional partners and sponsors.

- **One organization received the Frances R. Hesselbein Award** and \$75,000. This award annually recognizes a partnership that is addressing social challenges in more than one community or that demonstrates the potential to be replicated in other communities.

- **Four organizations were named Honorable Mention recipients.** Each received a \$50,000 award.

It is with enormous pride that Mutual of America presents profiles of each of the 2023 Community Partnership Award winners. We also invite you to visit the official Mutual of America Foundation YouTube channel to see the videos created for each of the 28 Thomas J. Moran Award-winning programs.

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## Two Visionaries Unite to Shine Light on Nonprofits

Nearly three decades ago, Thomas J. Moran and Frances R. Hesselbein led the way, along with board members and other sector leaders, in establishing the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award. To celebrate their significant and lasting contributions, the top-two awards are named in their honor.



### **The Thomas J. Moran Award**

is presented annually to the national award-winning program. The eponymous award commemorates the lifetime achievements and personal generosity of Thomas Moran, who passed away in 2018 after serving as Chairman, President and CEO during a distinguished 43-year career at Mutual of America from 1975 to 2018. Mr. Moran championed the Community Partnership Award as a way to recognize the extraordinary leadership of nonprofit organizations across the United States and to highlight the numerous contributions they make to society and, in particular, toward improving the lives of individuals most in need.



### **The Frances R. Hesselbein Award**

was created in 2022 in special recognition of Frances Hesselbein, who served on our board and was an esteemed part of the Mutual of America family for more than 40 years. Her deep connection to the nonprofit community helped lead to the creation of the Community Partnership Award, on whose Selection Committee she served as a founding member until her passing in 2022. Ms. Hesselbein, who was awarded the Medal of Freedom in 1998 by President Clinton, served as President and CEO of the Frances Hesselbein Leadership Forum at the University of Pittsburgh. She also served as CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

# LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS FOR GREATER IMPACT

Each year, the Community Partnership Award honors nonprofit organizations that leverage partnerships with public and private organizations in order to scale their transformative solutions to critical social challenges within their communities and beyond.

The 2023 award winners were selected from a competitive pool of more than 800 programs. Together, they represent a variety of innovative, results-oriented organizations that are driving measurable change in their communities. They join a growing list of Community Partnership Award winners that are lighting the way to healthier, more equitable communities for all.



## A HOLISTIC FOCUS

Over the past 28 years, the Community Partnership Award has recognized a diverse group of nonprofit organizations in the U.S. whose inspiring programs are tackling critical social issues, including:

- |                       |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Antibullying          | Homelessness          | Sexual Violence         |
| Child Abuse           | Housing               | Special-Needs Inclusion |
| Community Development | Human Trafficking     | Substance Abuse         |
| Disabilities          | Hunger Prevention     | Teen Counseling         |
| Domestic Violence     | Inmate Rehabilitation | Veteran Care            |
| Education             | Legal Justice         | Violence Prevention     |
| Elder Care            | Mental Health         | Women's Empowerment     |
| Employment            | Poverty               | Women's Health          |
| Family Support        | Prison Reform         | Youth                   |
| Grief Support         | Public Safety         |                         |
| Healthcare            | Racial Equality       |                         |
|                       | Refugee Care          |                         |

# 159

Cities and towns across the United States with organizations whose programs have received the Community Partnership Award

# 42

States, plus the District of Columbia, represented by organizations whose programs have received the Community Partnership Award

**“We are proud of the more than 250 partnerships that Mutual of America has recognized through the Community Partnership Award, and of the hundreds of thousands of lives these organizations have changed for the better.”**

*—John R. Greed, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mutual of America Financial Group*

# INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT

Winners of the Community Partnership Award are selected by an independent committee that is separate from the Mutual of America Foundation. Members of the committee are chosen for their breadth of experience, excellent judgment and, above all, commitment to addressing important issues facing American communities.



The Selection Committee reviews all completed applications and then meets to assess each program against the Community Partnership Award selection criteria. Because the committee works as a group, the decision on each Community Partnership applicant represents a collective judgment drawn from the insights and perspectives of each of its members.

## 2023 Selection Committee Members

**William F. Baker, Ph.D.**  
Claudio Aquaviva  
Distinguished Professor  
of Education  
Fordham University

**George E. Barker**  
Former Executive  
Vice President  
for International  
Development  
American Cancer  
Society

**Susan N. Dreyfus**  
President and CEO  
Alliance for Strong  
Families and  
Communities

**Carla Harris**  
Vice Chair, Wealth  
Management  
Senior Client Advisor,  
Managing Director  
Morgan Stanley |  
Company Management

**Thomas Von Essen**  
Former Commissioner  
New York City  
Fire Department

## Selection Committee Members, All-Time (1996–2023)

**William F. Baker, Ph.D.**  
2011–Present

**George E. Barker**  
2009–Present

**Richard Boyle**  
1996–2005

**Honorable Hugh Carey**  
1996–2011

**Richard J. Ciecka**  
2005, 2007

**Susan N. Dreyfus**  
2020–Present

**Dudley H. Hafner**  
1996–2018

**Carla Harris**  
2014–Present

**Frances R. Hesselbein**  
1996–2022

**William Kahn**  
2006–2010

**LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. MD**  
1996–2018

**Mary Ann Quaranta**  
1996–2008

**Francis Schott**  
2006–2013

**Andrew D. Sens**  
2012–2021

**Stanley Shmishkiss**  
1998–2005

**O. Stanley Smith, Jr.**  
2004–2006

**Thomas Von Essen**  
2017–Present

**Elie Wiesel**  
1996–2016

# 2023 National Award-Winning Program

Thomas J. Moran  
Award Recipient

## ORGANIZATION

Catalyst Kitchens

## PROGRAM

Catalyst Kitchens

## PARTNERS

90+ network members  
across 35 states



# CATALYST KITCHENS

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Today, 37.9 million people in the U.S.—11.5% of the population—are living in poverty, with inadequate access to basic human needs such as food, clothing and shelter. But poverty isn't just about a lack of money. It's a complex, societal issue about disadvantage, marginalization and exclusion that perpetuates across generations, unless someone or something intervenes to change its course.

Catalyst Kitchens is a ground-breaking national member network of nonprofit organizations committed to breaking the cycle of poverty through tuition-free culinary training and job placement for individuals facing barriers to employment. This includes people who may be unsheltered, returning from incarceration or living with disabilities; those who have a history of mental health and substance-use issues; or individuals who are immigrants or refugees.

Today, Catalyst Kitchens' network, which is member driven and member led, includes more than 90 members across 35 states, all engaged in culinary training, hunger relief and food-service social enterprise. By facilitating partnerships and collaboration among network members, Catalyst Kitchens is helping to source, organize and train on best practices that can enhance culinary job training programs and social enterprise interventions. In doing so, Catalyst Kitchens is leading the way in creating new pathways for lifting vulnerable individuals out of poverty and unemployment while relieving hunger in communities.

A key component of the services Catalyst Kitchens offers is their national and regional summits, which allow network members serving diverse populations to meet, mentor and learn from each other. Network members also have the ability to leverage Catalyst Kitchens' vendor partners and discounts, and access its Network Resource Library.

Launched in 2023, the library uses an open-source, peer-to-peer model that makes it easy for members and partners to share program curriculums, business tools, social service how-tos and vital techniques. These resources are curated and organized to help maximize impact.

"Collaboration can be a potent force in driving impact, especially when solving pressing social justice issues, like poverty, joblessness and hunger," said Justin Smith, Executive Director, Catalyst Kitchens. "The Catalyst Kitchens network model offers a visionary road map for nonprofits that see partnership and open resource sharing as the future of this work."

**"Catalyst Kitchens is an organization that we knew early on aligned with our mission and shared our values, and we will continue to support it as long as we are offering culinary arts education. Catalyst Kitchens is part of our hearts, part of the fabric of who we are, and I couldn't imagine doing this without being a member of their network. Without Catalyst Kitchens, honestly, we probably would not exist today."**

*—Julie Price, President and Chief Executive Officer, Arc Broward*

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# 22,423

**Individuals enrolled and trained since 2011**

## 2023 Frances R. Hesselbein Award Recipient

**ORGANIZATION**  
Latino U College Access

**PROGRAM**  
LUCA Scholars Program

**PARTNERS**  
Eight public high schools  
across lower Westchester  
County (NY)



# LUCA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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Latinos make up the largest and fastest-growing ethnic group in the U.S. today, yet they trail other ethnic groups in completing higher education. Without a college degree, many won't be able to qualify for even the entry-level jobs needed to build a good life for themselves and their families.

Latino U College Access (LUCA) was founded in 2012 to close the college-degree gap by helping Latino students overcome systemic barriers on their journeys to and through college. LUCA is one of the only college-access organizations whose mission specifically supports Latino students and their parents with culturally relevant, family-centered and bilingual programming.

LUCA's groundbreaking Scholars Program works in collaboration with eight high schools in Westchester County, NY, to help high-achieving Latino students prepare for and succeed in college. All of LUCA's partner schools serve economically disadvantaged students and have a high Latino student population of over 50%.

Students are nominated for the program in their junior year of high school by school counselors, based on academic qualifications. Scholars are then paired with one of LUCA's highly trained volunteer College Coaches, who guides them through the complex process of college admissions and financial aid. Coaches and the LUCA team also help students and parents make informed choices about

college selection, academic fit and more. Once enrolled in college, LUCA continues to provide assistance and mentorship to help ensure Scholars graduate on time and are career ready.

"Improving college completion is imperative for the future of our youth and the economic growth of our country—and it's the driving force behind the LUCA Scholars Program and its success. Ninety-three percent of our Scholars are enrolled in four-year universities, and 99% have graduated or are on track to graduate within four to six years, versus 28% and 51% of Latino students nationally," said Shirley Acevedo Buontempo, MPA, Founder and Executive Director of LUCA.

"The LUCA Scholars Program offers school districts across the country a proven model for ensuring that talented first-generation Latino students have the opportunity to fulfill their academic potential and achieve their American dream," concluded Acevedo Buontempo.

**"LUCA provides an amazing support network for children as they are planning to apply for college, when they get into college and even after they graduate."**

*—Dr. Joseph Ricca, Superintendent of Schools, White Plains Public Schools*

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# 450

**Scholars successfully enrolled in college**

# 2023 Honorable Mention Award Recipient

## ORGANIZATION

Alaska Legal Services  
Corporation

## PROGRAM

ALSC's Community Justice  
Worker Project

## PARTNERS

Alaska Native Tribal Health  
Consortium, Inc.

Alaska Pacific University

Kodiak Area Native  
Association

Association of Village  
Council Presidents





# ALSC'S COMMUNITY JUSTICE WORKER PROJECT

In rural areas across the U.S., a growing shortage of attorneys has created so-called "legal deserts." Within these communities, people often have little or no access to legal representation for civil procedures, putting their homes, benefits and safety at risk.

Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) is dedicated to ensuring that all Alaskans have access to civil justice, no matter their means or distance from a courthouse. This is crucial, as 90% of Alaskan communities are not accessible by road, and Alaska is home to 229 Alaska Native Tribes that also face barriers to legal access.

To address these issues, ALSC partnered with local Indigenous organizations to create the Community Justice Worker (CJW) Project. Launched in 2018, this bold initiative aims to bridge the justice gap by training non-attorney volunteers to address their communities' unmet civil legal needs.

ALSC's CJW Project borrowed inspiration from a program developed by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) that addresses the shortage of healthcare professionals in remote areas. Using this blueprint, ALSC collaborated with community and Tribal leaders to create an inclusive, culturally competent solution to providing civil legal aid in underserved communities. CJWs are recruited from rural communities and provided training

through free online modules that ALSC developed in partnership with ANTHC and Alaska Pacific University.

To enable CJWs to perform legal tasks, ALSC sought a first-of-its-kind legal waiver. The Alaska Supreme Court approved the waiver in 2022, allowing CJWs to legally represent clients for certain issues in state courts. ALSC's CJW Project was also named one of the top-five access-to-justice solutions worldwide by the World Justice Challenge in 2019.

"Since 2022, CJWs, with support from ALSC, have completed 152 cases and secured \$1.2 million in food benefits," said Maggie Humm, Interim Executive Director of ALSC. "Their remarkable results demonstrate the project's effectiveness in helping to close the justice gap. The American Bar Foundation is currently studying the program as a scalable solution to civil justice problems in the U.S. We're eagerly awaiting their findings."

**"ALSC's Community Justice Worker Project has profoundly impacted the Seward community by addressing the ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program crisis. By providing support and resources, the program has helped individuals and families navigate the complex challenges of not receiving benefits."**

*—Dolly Wiles, Tribal Administrator, Qutekcaak Native Tribe*

## 400+

**Community Justice Workers from 42 different communities have entered training**

# 2023 Honorable Mention Award Recipient

## ORGANIZATION

Auberle

## PROGRAM

Auberle's Employment Institute

## PARTNERS

UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital

Partner4Work



# AUBERLE'S EMPLOYMENT INSTITUTE

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Right now, there are more job openings in the U.S. than workers to fill them. All too often, otherwise-capable workers are shut out from these opportunities because they lack skills training or educational completion, or because of poverty, homelessness or former justice-system involvement.

Auberle is a nationally recognized human service agency that, each year, serves more than 4,000 individuals and families across southwestern Pennsylvania. Founded 70 years ago, Auberle's mission is to transform lives through holistic and innovative services and programs aimed at building strong individuals, families and communities, and at breaking generational cycles of socioeconomic distress.

Auberle's commitment to meeting community needs is exemplified by its flagship Employment Institute (EI). Established in 2013, EI is a workforce-development program that prepares unemployed and underemployed individuals of all ages and backgrounds for well-paying jobs, with benefits, in businesses across diverse industries. Auberle pairs its job-readiness training and 13 national certification programs with comprehensive social services so that its graduates not only obtain employment but also have the skills needed to maintain a career that changes the trajectory of their lives and their families' lives for future generations.

Auberle partners with more than 260 employers, as well as the workforce-development organization Partner4Work,

to create a steady pipeline of full-time job opportunities. One such partner is the nationally renowned UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital. In just two years, more than 90 EI graduates have been placed in career-track positions at the hospital, many coming from vulnerable communities facing high rates of poverty and unemployment.

"Our ability to help UPMC Magee fill vacant positions with capable workers has enabled the hospital to extend its capabilities and thrive," said John Lydon, Chief Executive Officer of Auberle. "We've replicated the EI model at hundreds of other businesses across the region, enabling our partners to grow and positively impact the communities they serve."

"Today, we are the area's go-to workforce-development program," Lydon added. "We will continue to innovate new ways to fuel southwestern Pennsylvania's talent engine and to remove barriers for segments of the population who face greater obstacles to employment."

**"Because of Auberle, I got a job. I got a house. I just got my own life. [When] you just see obstacles in life, they help you overcome them. That's what I like about the program."**

*—Isaiah, an Auberle's Employment Institute graduate*

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# 600+

**Individuals served annually through Auberle's Employment Institute**

# 2023 Honorable Mention Award Recipient

**ORGANIZATION**  
Open Door Mission

**PROGRAM**  
Free Health and  
Healing Clinic

**PARTNERS**  
Nebraska Medicine  
Visiting Nurse Association  
Foot and Ankle Center of  
Nebraska and Iowa  
Clarkson Family Medicine/  
Nebraska Medicine



# FREE HEALTH AND HEALING CLINIC

More than 650,000 Americans experience homelessness each night in the U.S., a 12% increase from 2022, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Many of those individuals have unmet physical and mental healthcare needs.

Open Door Mission was established in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1954, as a Gospel Rescue Mission committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Each day, Open Door Mission provides access to 917 safe shelter beds and serves 4,747 nutritious meals to vulnerable individuals and families. It also offers homelessness prevention services that empower financially vulnerable people to remain in their homes.

In 1994, Open Door Mission began providing free healthcare clinic visits in collaboration with local nursing schools. As the need for more comprehensive services grew, Open Door Mission expanded its partnerships with healthcare providers and opened the Free Health and Healing Clinic directly on Open Door Mission's main campus in 1997. There, local doctors, nurses, pharmacists and specialists provide primary healthcare and preventive services.

In 2023, the Free Health and Healing Clinic facilitated 8,665 healthcare visits, acting as a critical lifeline for patients experiencing homelessness. Services include foot-care clinics to treat wounds created by inadequate footwear, pharmacy and diabetes clinics for patients who need help reviewing and managing their medications,

heart and lung clinics, and mental health support services.

"The success achieved by Open Door Mission through its collaborative healthcare partnerships enables us to improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable citizens, which, in turn, also creates an economically and socially enriched community for all of Omaha's residents," said Dr. Candace Gregory, President and Chief Executive Officer of Open Door Mission.

"The Open Door Mission Free Health and Healing Clinic earned a Gold Rating from the National Association of Free & Charitable Clinics' (NAFC) Quality Standards Program in 2022," Gregory added. "This top rating underscores the power of partnership in helping to deliver essential services to individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty. It's a model we hope other communities will look to as a compassionate, effective solution."

**"The clinic actually saved my life. You are not going to find better care anywhere, honestly, and the staff is just wonderful."**

*—An Open Door Mission patient who was treated for a life-threatening infection*

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# 8,665

**Total visits to Free Health and Healing Clinic**

## 2023 Honorable Mention Award Recipient

### ORGANIZATION

Grand Avenue Economic  
Community Development  
Corp./Pathlight HOME

### PROGRAM

Transforming Lives Through  
Housing & Economic  
Opportunity

### PARTNERS

Homeless Services Network  
of Central Florida

Advent Health Orlando

Rosen Hotels and Resorts



# TRANSFORMING LIVES

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Every person deserves a safe, stable place to live. Yet homelessness, which can drive or exacerbate mental health and substance-use disorders, is often a barrier that prevents our most vulnerable citizens from finding a secure place to live.

Recognizing the complexities of homelessness, Grand Avenue Economic Community Development Corp. (commonly known as Pathlight HOME) was founded in Orlando, Florida, in 1992 to provide housing and economic opportunity to homeless and low-income individuals who need a second chance.

Pathlight HOME was the first organization in Florida to apply the “Housing First” model to address homelessness. Through its Transforming Lives Through Housing & Economic Opportunity program, Pathlight HOME provides access to affordable housing without preconditions. At the same time, it makes available voluntary, wraparound services, such as case management, community-based healthcare, and career training and employment services.

Pathlight HOME pioneered an innovative approach to creating permanent housing: It acquired two abandoned motel properties and renovated them to become more than 700 affordable efficiency apartments. It also transformed the commercial kitchen of one of those motels into a Culinary Skills Training Center, providing residents and nonresidents with culinary training and a pathway to jobs in the food service industry.

Homeless individuals are referred to Pathlight HOME through a long-standing collaboration with Homeless Services Network of Central Florida. Employment services and career training for residents and nonresidents are provided on-site and in partnership with Advent Health Orlando and Rosen Hotels and Resorts.

“Working in partnership with these amazing organizations has enabled us to move more than 7,000 homeless individuals from the streets to permanent housing, and from the unemployment line to good and steady jobs, since 1992,” said Babette Allen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Pathlight HOME.

“Pathlight HOME began as a dream shared by our founders, Rev. Fred Maxwell and Helaine Blum. That dream continues to grow,” Allen added. “Today, we’re working to replicate our program so that all Floridians who have been displaced by rising housing costs have a secure place to call home and hope for a better future.”

**“When I lived on the street, I was robbed three times and raped. I was scared of everyone, and I kind of isolated myself. I honestly thought I was going to die out there. This program has given me a new outlook.”**

*—A resident of Pathlight HOME who was homeless for eight years*

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# 720

**Employment Center clients served; up 37% from 2022**

# NORTH MARKET

## ORGANIZATION

Pillsbury United Communities

## PROGRAM

North Market

## PARTNERS

General Mills

Body by Val

City of Minneapolis Health Department

Local business partners

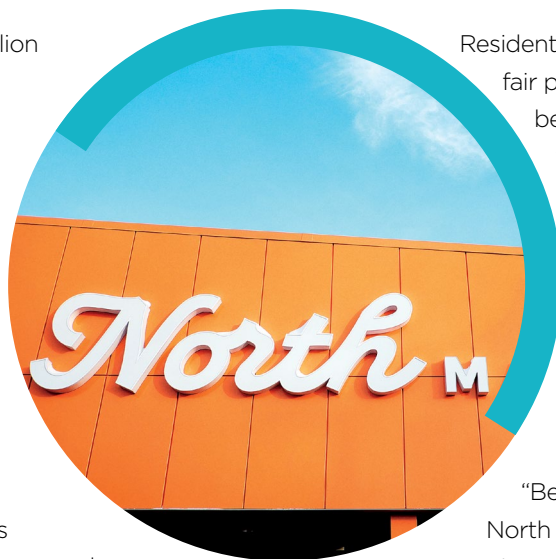
**“The recognition that comes with receiving the prestigious Community Partnership Award has made a difference in our ability to grow and thrive. Mutual of America’s generous support has boosted confidence in our ability to partner widely and dream big about the bright future of North Market and the residents of this amazing neighborhood.”**

—Cinnamon Pelly, President and Chief Executive Officer, Pillsbury United Communities

Today, nearly 34 million Americans live in communities where individuals and families have limited access to affordable, nutritious foods that are needed to maintain good health.

In 2016, Pillsbury United Communities partnered with business and local community leaders to address the persistent food insecurity and health issues facing residents in North Minneapolis, an urban neighborhood with just one full-service supermarket to serve its 67,000 residents. In 2018, they opened North Market, an innovative nonprofit grocery and wellness center aimed at building a healthier community for all.

In the years since, North Market—a 2021 Community Partnership Honorable Mention Award winner—has become a living-wage employer for residents and a community hub that has hosted events such as vaccine clinics and candidate forums, and is helping to revitalize the city’s north side.



Residents can purchase food at fair prices; boost their well-being with nutrition and fitness programs that address food-related health issues such as obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure; and buy products from local entrepreneurs.

“Because we’re a nonprofit, North Market is able to put the urgent needs of the neighborhood first,” said Cinnamon Pelly, President and Chief Executive Officer of Pillsbury United Communities. “We’re here for the long term, working to bring more food offerings, more health and wellness experiences, more space for local businesses and more opportunities for our community to build a more vibrant future together.”



# 2,800

Visitors per week



## Community Partnership Award Impact

# PAST WINNERS: WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

Mutual of America is pleased to know that the Community Partnership Award and documentary videos we produce serve as valuable tools in the respective missions of organizations nationwide, helping them to educate and provide models of coordinated action for others to emulate.

**“** When we won the Community Partnership Award, we had no idea how great an impact it would have on our entire community.”

—Walter Segaloff,  
Founder, An Achievable Dream, Inc.  
2003: An Achievable Dream

**“** The video is still widely used to help people both within and outside the community understand the way the partnership works.”

—Shirl Q. Regan,  
Executive Director,  
Women's Center & Shelter  
of Greater Pittsburgh  
2001: Zone-Based  
Advocacy

**“** I applied for the award even though some people didn't think we had a chance of winning. And when we did, everyone was thrilled! This will definitely help us transform our program to serve more people in need.”

—Carley Kammerer,  
Founder and  
Executive Director,  
Wildflyer Coffee  
2022: Work and Life Skills  
Training Program

**“** The Community Partnership Award came at a critical juncture for College Possible. The award helped elevate our national visibility.”

—Jim McCorkell,  
CEO and Founder,  
College Possible  
2011: College Possible  
Program

**“** The Community Partnership Award ... helped catalyze an increased commitment at CASES to telling the stories of our clients and work.”

—Jonathan McLean, CEO, CASES  
2021: Nathaniel Project

## Community Partnership Award Impact

# Past National Award-Winning Programs

Since 1996, the diverse and prestigious group of Community Partnership Award winners continues to make a positive impact on society every day.

Rooted in empathy and a commitment to partnering with public, private and other social sector organizations, these remarkable nonprofits are tackling an array of issues through a variety of successful, innovative approaches. In doing so, they are providing opportunity and hope to many. We are thankful for their contributions. You can read their stories at [mutualofamerica.com](http://mutualofamerica.com). The following is a quick look at the crucial work being achieved by each of the past 27 national award-winning programs.

### 2022

#### **Patriot PAWS Prison Training Program**

Patriot PAWS Service Dogs  
Rockwall, TX 75032

In 2018, Patriot PAWS Service Dogs partnered with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to enlist the help of inmates in raising and training service dogs for veterans who have suffered debilitating injury or illness while in service to our country. As a result of this program, more of our nation's heroes have access to a service dog that can help them regain lost independence and emotional stability.



### 2021



#### **The Nathaniel Project**

Center for Alternative Sentencing & Employment Services (CASES)  
Brooklyn, NY

The Nathaniel Project was established in 2000 by CASES to increase public safety through innovative services that reduce crime and incarceration, improve behavioral health, promote recovery and rehabilitation, and create opportunities for success. The Nathaniel Project is New York City's first alternative-to-incarceration program for adults with serious mental illness who are facing prison as the result of felony charges.

### 2020



#### **100 Scholars Robotics Alliance**

100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.  
Atlanta, GA

100 Scholars Robotics Alliance was created by 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc., and various partners as a way to help African American youth in underserved school districts excel in the classroom and build life skills. This groundbreaking after-school and summer program provides students opportunities to thrive in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

## 2019

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### Survivor Advocate Program

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)  
Los Angeles, CA

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking is confronting human trafficking, one of the most devastating human rights issues facing our country and the world. Through its Survivor Advocate Program, CAST embeds a trained professional, who is also a trafficking survivor, in partnering hospitals to improve the support that is offered when a victim of human trafficking seeks medical attention. In doing so, the program is empowering these individuals to rebuild their lives after years of captivity and abuse, and to turn their exploitation into an opportunity for advocacy to end human trafficking forever.

## 2018

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### Baltimore City Deconstruction Project

Humanim, Inc.  
Baltimore, MD

The Baltimore City Deconstruction Project employs a new model of multidisciplinary problem-solving to transform once-blighted blocks of dilapidated, vacant houses in Baltimore's inner city into thriving green spaces. They're doing this not by clogging landfills with demolition debris but by hiring and training local residents, many of whom were formerly incarcerated, to take apart these buildings, piece by piece, and then salvage the bricks and boards for resale.

## 2017

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### Evans Community Partnership School

Children's Home Society of Florida  
Orlando, FL

The Evans Community Partnership School uses a transformative "no-wrong-door" delivery model to provide a range of social services. This includes on-site medical and dental services, mental-health and counseling programs, after-school enrichment and mentoring, and transportation and meals aimed at raising the academic ground floor and empowering students to succeed. Today, the school has 15 agencies working collaboratively to strengthen the community by creating opportunities for students and their families to reach their full potential.

## 2016

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### East Harlem Center for Living and Learning

DREAM  
New York, NY

DREAM's (formerly known as Harlem RBI) East Harlem Center for Living and Learning originated from DREAM's need for school facilities and the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) interest in increasing low-income housing in the neighborhood. The center includes a 450-seat public charter school, where 50% of kindergarten seats are reserved for students living in NYCHA residences; after-school and summer program space that serves more than 1,800 kids each year; 89 units of affordable housing; a revitalized public park and community space; and ongoing job opportunities for local residents.

## 2015

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### Waikiki Health's PATH Clinic

Waikiki Health  
Honolulu, HI

Waikiki Health's PATH Clinic is Hawaii's only comprehensive obstetrics/gynecology clinic that specifically addresses the often complex needs of pregnant and parenting women with current or past addiction challenges. It provides primary medical care, smoking cessation programs, childcare, and social services, all in an environment that is nonjudgmental and compassionate.

## 2014

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### Surgery Weekend Program

Fresh Start  
Surgical Gifts  
Carlsbad, CA

At Fresh Start Surgical Gifts, an all-volunteer team of world-class surgeons, dentists and other medical providers is transforming the lives of disadvantaged children with physical deformities through the extraordinary gift of reconstructive surgery, dental care and other health-related services. These ongoing services are provided through Fresh Start's Surgery Weekend program, a first-of-its-kind partnership with Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego.

## 2013

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### Prison Puppies

Leader Dogs for the Blind  
Rochester Hills, MI

Prison Puppies pairs future Leader Dogs with model prisoners who have demonstrated that they can be trusted to provide 24/7 care to a seven-week-old puppy through its first year of life. These Leader Dogs not only provide greater independence, safety and self-worth to their blind or visually impaired clients but also give the inmates who cared for them a sense of pride and gratitude for the chance to give back to the community.

## 2012

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### Operation Rebound

Challenged Athletes Foundation  
San Diego, CA

Operation Rebound uses the healing power of sports as a path to recovery for active-duty service members, veterans and first responders who have suffered life-changing injuries as a result of their service. Operation Rebound has helped injured service members to reactivate their competitive spirit and pursue goals as big as competing in the Paralympics and as important as being able to chase their children around the block.

## Community Partnership Award Impact

2011



### College Possible Access and Success Partnership

College Possible  
Saint Paul, MN

College Possible helps break down the barriers that often keep economically disadvantaged youth from getting into college and earning a degree. Using AmeriCorps members as coaches, College Possible provides intensive ACT/SAT preparation, college admission and financial aid consulting, college transition guidance at the high school level, and a program to help college seniors as they prepare to graduate and join the workforce.

2007



### Project Success

100 Black Men of  
Atlanta, Inc.  
Atlanta, GA

Project Success is a partnership between 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc., and Atlanta Public Schools. This wide-ranging enrichment and mentoring program for students has grown to include programs in 19 Atlanta public schools. Project Success has energized Atlanta, helping thousands of children realize their potential for leadership and success.

2010



### Getting Out and Staying Out

Getting Out and  
Staying Out (GOSO)  
New York, NY

Through its partnership with the City of New York Department of Correction and the New York City Board of Education, Getting Out and Staying Out (GOSO) helps incarcerated men between the ages of 18 and 24 earn their GEDs and focus on life skills and possible career paths to better their chances of success once released. Fewer than 15% of the released inmates GOSO has worked with have recidivated.

2006



### New Jersey SEEDS Scholars Program

New Jersey SEEDS  
Newark, NJ

Every year, the New Jersey SEEDS Scholars Program selects over 100 inner-city students to attend rigorous Saturday and summer classes in academic subjects as well as leadership training. Students who complete the program receive full financial aid at one of over 100 independent secondary schools across the country that are partners with the program.

2009

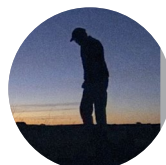


### Barbara McInnis House: Medical Respite Care Program

Boston Health Care for  
the Homeless Program  
Boston, MA

Most of us rely on the support of family or a visiting nurse when recovering from surgery, illness or injury. Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program's Barbara McInnis House: Medical Respite Care Program is a 104-bed facility that provides 24-hour medical care for homeless patients who are too sick for a shelter or the street but not in need of an extensive hospital stay.

2005



### The Hope for Veterans® Transitional Housing Program

Community Hope, Inc.  
Lyons, NJ

The Hope for Veterans Transitional Housing Program offers transitional housing in Lyons, New Jersey, for up to 75 homeless, honorably discharged veterans. The partnership provides up to two years of group and individual therapy, case management services, access to psychiatric services, and a professional program of substance-abuse counseling and vocational services.

2008



### Family Eviction Prevention Collaborative

Catholic Charities CYO  
San Francisco, CA

Since its inception in 2007, the Family Eviction Prevention Collaborative—comprising Catholic Charities CYO, Homeless Prenatal Program, Hamilton Family Center and Compass Community Services—has helped thousands of San Francisco families avoid homelessness by providing rental assistance to stave off eviction and to help those in shelters or substandard housing find permanent homes.

2004



### StreetWorks Collaborative

Freeport West, Inc.  
Minneapolis, MN

StreetWorks is a collaborative of 13 organizations in Minneapolis and St. Paul that have pooled their resources and developed a coordinated response to help homeless youth get the help they need. StreetWorks' outreach workers offer homeless youth everyday necessities for life on the street and distribute referral cards from agencies in the collaborative for those who want further help.

## 2003

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### **An Achievable Dream**

An Achievable Dream, Inc.  
Newport News, VA

An Achievable Dream is a year-round program in academic, social and moral education for underserved children in grades K-12. The program has succeeded by approaching the achievement gap from many different angles: extending the school day and year, providing food and healthcare, and stressing character development and social skills. Partners include the local sheriff's office and business community, and a U.S. Army facility.

## 2002

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### **Clubs Go to College**

Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford, Inc.  
Hartford, CT

In Clubs Go to College, two Hartford institutions have realized their common goal: to provide children and young adults with opportunities to develop physically, morally and intellectually. The Boys and Girls Clubs offer sports, art and computer facilities, and the children have access to Trinity College events and facilities as well as student volunteers, who serve as positive role models and friends.

## 2001

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### **Zone-Based Advocacy**

Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA

Zone-Based Advocacy brings together the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S), the City of Pittsburgh Police Department, and the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office in a coordinated response to the needs of domestic violence victims. WC&S advocates work to prevent future violence, helping victims understand their options, including counseling and shelter.

## 2000

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### **Prisoner and Family Ministry Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives**

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois  
Des Plaines, IL

Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives is a partnership of the Prisoner and Family Ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and Habitat for Humanity International. This program trains prisoners to construct homes for Habitat for Humanity families. It has served hundreds of inmates and families, offering valuable lessons in both home-building and community-building.

## 1999

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### **AI Sigl Center Partnership**

AI Sigl Center for Rehabilitation Agencies, Inc.  
Rochester, NY

This partnership of individual agencies works together to help people with disabilities live fuller, more independent lives. AI Sigl Center is the resource agency, managing real estate for programs, coordinating shared services, raising charitable contributions and expanding public awareness of the needs of people with disabilities, thereby freeing the partner agencies to focus on serving their clients.

## 1998

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### **Kinship Support Network**

Edgewood Center for Children and Families  
San Francisco, CA

The Kinship Support Network supports grandparents and other relatives of children who've lost a parent through death, abandonment, abuse or neglect. The Network provides guardians with support groups, mentors and educational workshops as well as access to a range of services, including healthcare, case management, community resources and housing opportunities.

## 1997

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### **"A Level Playing Field," A Program for At-Risk Children**

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs, Inc. (A.C.O.R.N. Clinic)  
Brooker, FL

"A Level Playing Field" assigns students of medicine, nursing and dentistry from the University of Florida to elementary schools, community centers and the A.C.O.R.N. Clinic to provide basic dental care, immunizations and a range of other health services to children in low-income rural communities in Florida.

## 1996

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### **Community Internship Program**

Henry Street Settlement  
New York, NY

In this partnership, United Parcel Service (UPS) sends its managers to the Henry Street Settlement to learn about inner-city life. Managers visit homebound seniors, teach job skills and deliver food to the homeless while learning about the diversity of their workers and the people they serve. The Henry Street Settlement learns how the corporate world solves its problems.

## Directory

# 2023 AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

### **Catalyst Kitchens**

Catalyst Kitchens  
300 Lenora Street  
PMB 1166  
Seattle, WA 98121

Justin Smith  
*Executive Director*

206.565.9980  
justin.smith@catalystkitchens.org

### **LUCA Scholars Program**

Latino U College Access  
75 Virginia Road, 2nd Floor  
White Plains, NY 10603

Shirley Acevedo Buontempo, MPA  
*Founder and Executive Director*

914.828.0404  
sab@latinou.org

### **ALSC's Community Justice Worker Project**

Alaska Legal Services Corporation  
1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Maggie Humm  
*Interim Executive Director*

907.272.9431  
mhumm@alsc-law.org

### **Auberle's Employment Institute**

Auberle  
1101 Hartman Street  
McKeesport, PA 15132

John Patrick Lydon  
*Chief Executive Officer*

412.673.5856 x1310  
johnly@auberle.org

### **Free Health and Healing Clinic**

Open Door Mission  
2828 N. 23rd Street East  
Omaha, NE 68110

Dr. Candace Gregory  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

402.422.1111  
candace@opendoormission.org

### **Transforming Lives Through Housing & Economic Opportunity**

Grand Avenue Economic  
Community Development Corp./  
Pathlight HOME  
3200 West Colonial Drive  
Orlando, FL 32808

Babette Allen  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

407.294.0123  
babette@pathlighthome.org



“

Each year, our Community Partnership Award winners highlight just how essential nonprofit organizations are to providing crucial programs, services and, truly, life-changing work—particularly for individuals and families in underserved communities.”

—Lisa Loughry,  
Chair, Mutual of America Foundation



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