



CORNING FOUNDATION

Employee Vibrant Community Grants

2020 Employee Vibrant Community Grant Winners

The Employee Vibrant Community Grants began in 2018 as a celebration of Corning Incorporated Foundation's 65th anniversary. The program encourages employees to nominate eligible non-profit organizations for a \$1,000 grant. This allows the Foundation to invest in the non-profit organizations that mean the most to Corning employees.

A Hope 4 Lyme, Inc.

Elmira, NY

Nominated by John L. Bunce Jr., Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

With Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses on the rise in the Northeastern United States, better education can help prevent new cases and support those affected as they cope with symptoms. A Hope 4 Lyme brings volunteers together to raise awareness of Lyme disease through schools, health fairs, and other educational settings. Support groups give people the latest medical information as they work toward remission, writes John Bunce. The group also makes gas cards available to those traveling for treatment, easing their burden during what can be a long process. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Addison Youth Baseball

Addison, NY

Nominated by Bryan M. Miller, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Nearly 200 Addison-area youth each year enjoy the fun and excitement of baseball – honing their athletic and leadership skills at the same time -- through the Addison Youth Baseball program. The organization has a strong community following and depends on dedicated volunteers who coach, maintain the fields, and umpire games. "Through this activity, these young kids will learn baseball skills, good sportsmanship, honesty, respect, loyalty, and a sense of teamwork," writes Bryan Miller. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Arc of Steuben**Bath, NY**

Nominated by Mischelle Shattuck, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

The Arc of Steuben supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by connecting them with housing, employment, inclusion within the community, training on independent living skills, and many other services. Mischelle Shattuck's son has received Arc services for nearly 20 years. As a result, she writes, "he has a job he goes to every day and lives on his own. He has been empowered by this organization to be an active member of his community." Mischelle also serves on the organization's Board of Directors. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Big Flats Historical Society**Big Flats, NY**

Nominated by Mark LaLomia, IT Service Delivery, Corning, NY

The rich and interesting heritage of Big Flats, NY is chronicled and celebrated through the many programs of the Big Flats Historical Society. By hosting free holiday tours, community dinners and other educational get-togethers, the organization reaches many residents of all ages and "preserves history to be appreciated for future generations," writes Mark LaLomia. The society will have a landmark event in 2022: Celebrating the Bicentennial of Big Flats. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Boys on the Right Track, Inc.**Savona, NY**

Nominated by Nathanael Craige, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Boys between the ages of 8 and 13 can meet new friends and learn healthy life lessons through Boys on the Right Track. Boys train to run a 5K race, but the volunteer-run program focuses less on competition and more on encouragement and friendship in an environment away from electronic devices. Nathanael Craige's son joined the program last year. "I was skeptical at first," he wrote. "To my surprise, he not only stuck with it, but he enjoyed it. This grant would help touch the lives of many more kids like my son." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Camp Horsin' Around, Inc.
Perryville, KY

Nominated by Blake Thompson, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Children with special needs or compromised health may have trouble enjoying outdoor adventures. Camp Horsin' Around provides a summer-camp experience tailored to the unique physical, emotional, and social needs of these children and their families. The camp hosts other non-profit organizations from Kentucky and surrounding states who serve children with cancer, diabetes, asthma, kidney disease, impairment of sight or hearing, and other special needs. "It is a unique and special facility," writes Blake Thompson. "Seriously or chronically ill kids can feel as though they are just like any other kid going to summer camp." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Cape Fear Youth Soccer Association, Inc.
Wilmington, NC

Nominated by James R. Lechleider, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Youth soccer in the Wilmington area lets young players take part in healthy competition at their own level. The experience focuses on development of soccer skills, participation, sportsmanship, and enjoying the game of soccer. In addition to soccer, the league provides an opportunity "for people from different areas of town and different cultures to come together, play, make friends, and support our community," writes James Lechleider. His two daughters have participated in the league over recent years. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Chemung County Historical Society, Inc.
Elmira, NY

Nominated by Fiona Patrick, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

The Chemung Valley Historical Society helps residents of all ages deepen their understanding of history and appreciate the community's place in state and national history. More than 14,000 photographs are part of the collection at the Chemung Valley History Museum. Programs are interactive and topics are wide-ranging, including the Civil War, Underground Railroad, Mark Twain, Elmira celebrities, and old-fashioned games. Virtual exhibits on women's suffrage and Elmira in the Gilded Age are also available online for those unable to visit in person, Fiona Patrick writes. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Chemung Valley Montessori School
Elmira, NY

Nominated by Jingshi Wu, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

More than 1,000 children in the Corning area have flourished in the nurturing environment of Chemung Valley Montessori School (CVMS). The school serves children from the age of 2 through sixth grade, and each child builds individual potential, passion for lifelong learning, and a sense of world community. The student group reflects the cultural diversity of Corning, and special events reinforce that inclusive mindset. "Celebration of Cultures in 2019 drew more than 100 people to learn about customs and cultures from 20 countries," writes Jingshi Wu. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Christ's Haven for Children
Keller, TX

Nominated by Racheal E. McCauley, Corning Optical Communications, Keller, TX

Christ's Haven for Children, part of the Keller community for more than 60 years, offers a warm, loving home to disadvantaged children who have often been abused. Several individual homes on an expansive acreage create a family-based model of care where children can heal from past trauma and embrace a bright future. "I can't say enough about this program and what they do for our community with the support they give the most helpless of all – children," writes Racheal McCauley. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Common Time
Elmira, NY

Nominated by Kathleen M. Healy, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Common Time brings together more than 70 singers who perform free concerts as gifts to the community. Founded 35 years ago, "Common Time continues to enhance the vibrancy of the community by spreading the 'gift of song' and perhaps a memory or two," writes Kathleen Healy. Concerts also include appearances by young dancers and musicians and local theater performers. Besides performances at the iconic Clemens Center in Elmira, Common Time also provides entertainment at retirement homes, health care facilities, and community sporting events. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Community Career Development Council
Elmira, NY**

Nominated by Michael T. Preston, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Community Career Development Council integrates the local educational system with the world of work, helping increase young learners' future success. The organization helps create experiences that prepare students for a wide range of career options with a strong focus on STEM careers in the Corning/Elmira region. Career days, job shadowing, field trips, and practice interviews are all part of the group's program. "Ultimately, students are better able to say, 'I am career-ready!'" writes Michael Preston. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Community Seva, Inc.
San Jose, CA**

Nominated by Rajeswari Nagarajan, Corning Optical Communications, Milipitas, CA

Community Seva serves the homeless community in the San Francisco Bay Area. Volunteers cook and serve hot meals, provide mobile shower facilities and hygiene kits, and deliver winter backpacks with outdoor gear like blankets and socks. Volunteers also help clean up encampments in the area. Raji Nagarajan, who has volunteered with Seva since its founding in 2013, writes: "Community Seva cares for the local community and helps make it better. I'm proud to be a small cog in this wheel." **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County
Bath, NY**

Nominated by David G. Hess, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County provides many services that support economic vitality, ecological sustainability, and social well-being. The Extension is a well-established font of knowledge and community support in areas like consumer agriculture, nutrition and health, youth and family, finance, energy efficiency, and sustainable natural resources. "I personally know many people in the community who have been helped throughout the years with their services," writes David Hess. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Corning Meals on Wheels

Corning, NY

Nominated by Melissa A. Colacino, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

More than 160 Corning-area volunteers combine forces to deliver nourishing meals to frail and homebound residents each weekday. Corning Meals on Wheels helps bring nutrition and social contact to these seniors, enabling many of them to stay healthy and remain independent. “For so many of our clients, the volunteer delivering a hot meal and a warm smile is the only person they see that day,” writes Melissa Colacino. Visits also serve as a safety check for otherwise-isolated seniors. Melissa adds that the program reflects a spirit of “neighbors helping neighbors, building a better community together.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

Corning Youth Hockey Association, Inc.

Corning, NY

Nominated by Christopher S. Desso, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

The Corning Youth Hockey Association (CYHA) draws participation from more than 110 families from Steuben, Schuyler, and Chemung counties. The eight teams cover five age categories and play more than 200 games each year, attracting many visiting families to the area. Sportsmanship, scholarship, and physical fitness are at the heart of the program. “CYHA teaches and promotes lifelong leadership and team skills to all participants – in turn, building a better and more-vibrant community for the future,” writes Christopher Desso. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Corning-Painted Post Civic Music Association

Corning, NY

Nominated by Kurt A. Hollasch, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

When world-class musical talent comes to the Southern Tier, it’s often because of the Corning-Painted Post Civic Music Association. Through the group’s efforts, live music on par with that found in some of the finest concert halls of New York City or Los Angeles is available locally at a fraction of the price. Visiting musicians are also brought into area schools to educate and inspire students. “Students are treated to an unforgettable and broadening musical experience,” writes Kurt Hollasch. “The common element is the national/international level of the quality music they perform.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

Durham Public Schools
Durham, NC

Nominated by Lakeisha A. Howie, Corning Life Sciences, Durham, NC

Y.E. Smith Elementary School, part of the Durham Public Schools system, is a unique museum-themed school partnering with local museums and theaters to provide monthly field trips. With programs like Positive Behavior Intervention and Capturing Kids' Hearts, Y.E. Smith has significantly raised its performance levels while also supporting families in its community. A food pantry and backpack program give families in need an extra boost. "Y.E. Smith has a heart for the community that beats with full force," writes Lakeisha Howie. **This grant will be for Y.E. Smith Elementary School.**

Faith Feeds of Kentucky, Inc.
Lexington, KY

Nominated by Mai L. Futagami, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Over the past decade, GleanKY (founded as Faith Feeds of Kentucky) has been devoted to reducing local food waste while helping those who are hungry. Volunteers gather excess produce from farms, orchards, farmers' markets, stores and home gardens. They deliver the fresh food to more than 100 distribution sites where families in need can use and benefit from it. "GleanKY bridges the gap between programs for food-insecure populations and sources of excess fresh fruits and vegetables," write Mai Futagami. "They are a vital link between the two. My family and I have personally volunteered." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Finger Lakes Boating Museum
Hammondsport, NY

Nominated by David Congdon, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

The Finger Lakes Boating Museum supports the heritage of wooden boat building while also boosting regional tourism. Museum volunteers are restoring a 1924 vessel originally used as a mail boat on Skaneateles Lake. Eventually, the museum intends to provide boat rides on Keuka Lake and establish outreach to other Finger Lakes destinations. They also host practical classes like woodworking as well as enriching musical programs. "This grant would have a big impact on their educational programming," writes David Congdon. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Greenhouse17

Lexington, KY

Nominated by Jamie Votaw, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Survivors of partner abuse can find a peaceful, safe environment at Greenhouse 17, a shelter surrounded by a 40-acre farm in the rural Bluegrass country of Kentucky. While they recover from their ordeals, residents can grow strong in body and spirit as they raise flowers, fruits, vegetables and herbs. Greenhouse 17 staff also assist residents with legal advocacy, career services, and support as they transition to a safe, healthier future. "Eating food fresh from the garden models good nutrition and healthy eating habits for parents and kids," writes Jamie Votaw. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Harrodsburg Historical Society

Harrodsburg, KY

Nominated by Nicholas I. Souder, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

The Harrodsburg Historical Society, chartered in 1908, invites residents to come search through its archives and learn about the long history of Harrodsburg. Housed in the historic Old Mud Meeting House, the group holds monthly meetings that are open to all. Nicholas Souder recalls the joy his grandmother used to have researching family genealogy in the organization's archives. "I wonder how many others are illuminated by having this outlet of historical preservation," he writes. "If we don't know where we come from, we won't appreciate how we got here!" The Harrodsburg Historical Society will play a vital role in Harrodsburg's 250th anniversary celebration in 2024. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Hope Christian Academy

Painted Post, NY

Nominated by Amanda G. Basabakwinshi, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Hope Christian Academy creates an exciting and challenging environment where students focus on critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Math, science, and other academic programs are balanced with stunning drama performances, interactive art classes, home economics, and gym. The school community is also dedicated to public service; students and their families volunteer at local food pantries and take on such international projects as providing water filters to people in Nepal. "Students graduate well-rounded and have a sense of where their talents are," writes Amanda Basabakwinshi. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Horace Mann Educational Associates
Franklin, MA**

Nominated by Mercy M. Koshy, Corning Life Sciences, Bedford, MA

Horace Mann Educational Associates (HMEA) serves more than 4,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities like autism, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy. Through programs focused on entire family, HMEA teaches, supports, and empowers people to live productive and meaningful lives. "This organization does sparkling, superior work," writes Mercy Koshy. "One of our friends' sons is benefitting enormously – the help he has been offered is incalculable." **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Kennebunkport Historical Society
Kennebunkport, ME**

Nominated by Brenda D. Stevens, Corning Life Sciences, Kennebunk, ME

The picturesque village of Kennebunkport boasts a rich history in shipbuilding, commercial fishing, and boating recreation. This history is preserved and celebrated at the Kennebunkport Historical Society. Residents and visitors alike enjoy archives, exhibits, re-enactments, tours, and outreach programs on the area's social, cultural, economic, and architectural history. From researching family history to learning more about a just-purchased property, "the society is a vital resource and involved partner in the community," writes Brenda Stevens. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Kentucky Ballet Theatre
Lexington, KY**

Nominated by Jeffrey R. Amadon, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

The Kentucky Ballet Theater is a ballet company and school serving the entire state of Kentucky. The organization is devoted to being true to the ballet art form while performing both traditional and neo-classical works. Outreach programs are creative, interactive, and inclusive. Performers take their art to impoverished areas of rural Appalachia and into inner cities. "They have also leveraged innovative dance therapy methods to enhance the life of elderly patients, including those with advanced illness such as Alzheimer's disease," writes Jeffrey Amadon. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Keuka Lake Players, Inc.
Hammondsport, NY

Nominated by Michael L. Hursh, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

The Keuka Lake Players have been entertaining and enriching the greater Finger Lakes area for more than 30 years. The company strives to encourage participation and camaraderie from the community by involving families and all their talents. Personal risk-taking through the artistic process is part of the organization's set of values. The group also "continues to reinvest in the community through scholarships and support of theater in local schools and other community organizations," writes Michael Hursh. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Lake Norman Charter School
Huntersville, NC

Nominated by Adam Weeks, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

At Lake Norman Charter School, students find a unique culture of partnership, trust, safety, and pride. The school has a special focus on diversity and inclusion. Students are exposed to experiences and situations that expand their understanding of cultures, languages, and traditions other than their own. "The result is a highly engaged community of students, staff, parents, and neighbors that continuously produces results," writes Adam Weeks. "The school makes a positive impact on the community and generates future leaders." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Lincoln County School District
Lincolnton, NC

Nominated by Robert M. Sanetick, Corning Optical Communications, Hickory, NC

Youth at North Lincoln High School benefit greatly from participation in musical programs, and the North Lincoln High School Band Boosters helps support this activity. Public funding for school bands has been slashed in recent years, and the Band Boosters have helped fill the gap, enabling bands to perform in a wide variety of competitions and community parades. "This allows the band to have a 'no student left behind' policy, ensuring that everyone is able to participate, regardless of need," writes Robert Sanetick. **This grant will be for the North Lincoln High School Band Boosters.**

Mackville Community Center
Mackville, KY

Nominated by Lori Burns, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

The Mackville Community Center is the hub of the small town it calls home. Housed in the former Mackville Elementary School, it serves a wide variety of charitable and educational pursuits, often hosting events that would not be possible anywhere else. Community meetings, holiday events, family reunions, wedding receptions, and even funerals are all held here. A Hall of Fame honors those with Mackville roots who have achieved distinction, and historical artifacts are preserved in an on-site museum. "The Mackville Community Center means so much to so many," writes Lori Burns, who grew up in Mackville. "It is especially important to the seniors of the community." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Mecklenburg County Council, Boy Scouts of America
Charlotte, NC

Nominated by Grant A. Gildehaus, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Mecklenburg County Council's Boy Scout Troop 233 is the council's first female troop. Experienced leaders began preparing this quality program in 2017 and chartered it on the inaugural day of women in Boy Scouts the following year. More than 35 young women are actively engaged in the group. "Even those initially opposed to female inclusion have noted that Troop 233 is operating at the highest of BSA standards," writes Grant Gildehaus. "In many cases the young women of Troop 233 are forcing their male counterparts to work harder and increase their own standards to keep pace." **This grant will be for Troop 233.**

Mercer County Youth Sports Leagues, Inc.
Harrodsburg, KY

Nominated by Amber R. Carey, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Many families in Harrodsburg, KY are involved in the Mercer County Youth Sports League. The organization offers a chance for children to be involved in football, basketball, baseball, and/or cheerleading. Youth ages 6 to 12 increase their physical activity and develop lifelong healthy habits while developing self-control, persistence, and accountability. "The relationships that are built while playing sports, whether with other teammates or coaches, are something a child will always cherish," writes Amber Carey. "This is a positive thing for the Harrodsburg community." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Mercer Transformation, Inc.

Harrodsburg, KY

Nominated by Shawn R. Markham, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Mercer Transformations helps young elementary students be successful in school – and get a better start on a bright educational future – by offering free tutoring. The program recruits older students from Mercer County middle and high schools to serve as tutors, linking them with youngsters who need their guidance and mentorship. The program is a partnership between Mercer County Chamber of Commerce and Mercer County Ministerial Association. “The community does better when people of all ages are more enlightened,” writes Shawn Markham. “This one-on-one environment helps our teenagers to become personally invested in the wellness of others.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

Middletown Historical Society of Steuben County

Addison, NY

Nominated by Joanne K. Reagan, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

The Middletown Historical Society maintains a charming one-room schoolhouse, Northrup Hill School #2, in the town of Rathbone. It is the site of a yearly picnic and houses artifacts and photographs that bring the region’s history to life. The Society hosts tours of local historical homes, teas, and other educational programs. It also raises funds for scholarships and is a major sponsor of an annual Veteran’s Appreciation Banquet in Addison, writes Joanne Reagan. **This grant will be for general program support.**

National Soaring Museum, Inc.

Elmira, NY

Nominated by Claire J. Warren Ginnan, Corning Advanced Optics, Corning, NY

Visitors to the National Soaring Museum atop Harris Hill gain insights into the strong aeronautical history of the Corning region – as well as an understanding of the science behind it. An up-close look at planes and gliders inspires visitors while they enjoy the natural beauty of the area. With the help of experienced and knowledgeable staff, visitors may also choose to experience motorless flight for themselves. “As an event venue, the space provides the perfect balance of comfort and intrigue,” writes Claire Warren Ginnan. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**New Song -- The Southern Tier Youth Chorus
Horseheads, NY**

Nominated by Anthony R. Board, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

New Song brings together young singers between third and ninth grades to develop their voices and discover powerful new ways to restore hope and confront injustice in today's world. The students learn principles of healthy vocal technique and perform age-appropriate compositions. They also learn how artistic expression can help inspire a generation to rise up and take action. "New Song is a catalytic voice for the renewal of communities, regions, and nations through the powerful combination of youth and song," writes Anthony Board. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Painted Post Food Pantry
Painted Post, NY**

Nominated by Payal Patel, Patent Office, Corning, NY

The Painted Post Food Pantry has been open every weekday morning since 1975, providing food to anyone in need. Volunteers lead visitors through the pantry, letting them choose what they need while offering help on meal preparation and other encouragement. In 2018, the pantry served more than 9,000 people, or nearly 2,500 households, distributing more than 100,000 pounds of food. "Pantry board members solicit grant funds to secure items which cannot be purchased with food stamps, like personal hygiene products, detergent, and dish soap," writes Payal Patel. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Pregnancy Resource Center of the Valleys
Bath, NY**

Nominated by Elisabeth Walker, Corning Pharmaceutical Technologies, Corning, NY

Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) of the Valleys reaches women and families in need in the Corning, Bath, and Mount Morris communities. They are committed to helping women before, during, and after an unplanned pregnancy. Trained PRC advocates work with clients to provide lab-quality tests and ultrasounds, ensuring accurate information and education. Community education includes programs like "Earn While You Learn" and parenting classes. "They provide counseling as well as work to address the physical needs of new parents by providing items like baby clothes and diapers," writes Elisabeth Walker. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Regional Science & Discovery Center, Inc.
Corning, NY**

Nominated by Steve Butcher, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

The Regional Science & Discovery Center helps support teachers by offering STEM enrichment activities, after-school programs, a mobile science lab, science summer camps, family science nights, and other events. “Activities are hands-on and highly experiential in nature, with the child being encouraged to learn through participation,” writes Steve Butcher. In the 2018-19 academic year, the organization reached more than 20,000 local students, “providing important support for STEM teachers and communities while striving to make science fun and exciting,” he adds. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**The Rockwell Museum
Corning, NY**

Nominated by Joseph D. Thaler, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Through compelling exhibitions and imaginative programs, The Rockwell Museum inspires reflection about art as an American experience in a relaxed, intimate, and accessible environment. The recent opening of the Art Lab Extension gives a special space for children to learn how anyone can be an artist. The “Framed” exhibit, for example, encouraged youngsters to imagine what it would be like to become part of famous paintings. “They could express how it might feel to be a Dust Bowl-era farmer or to sleep in a 19-century campsite as portrayed by Grant Wood and John Singer Sargent,” writes Joseph Thaler. **This grant will be for the Art Lab.**

**Sailfish Holdings
Concord, NC**

Nominated by Amber E. Weeks, IT Service Delivery, Hickory, NC

Sailfish Aquatics teaches children the life skill of swimming in a safe and fun atmosphere. Youth can then reach their potential through community-based competitive swimming. By learning to swim in a positive environment, children as young as 4 can learn integrity, discipline, and teamwork. The swim team also reflects a diversity of students from different schools and background, providing an enriching learning experience for all. “Knowing how to swim is such an important life skill, since we will all be around water at some point in our lives,” writes Amber Weeks. “This is a wonderful organization that can teach kids this life skill and so many other skills, too.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Seven Generations of Stewards, Inc.
Corning, NY**

Nominated by Thomas M. Zajicek, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

The Native Nations Festival is a three-day cultural and artistic event in late September at the Watson Homestead Retreat Center. Attendees experience live Native American dances, drumming, singing, storytelling, arts and crafts, and native food. Over its first two years, the festival increased both in size and scope. The 2019 event drew about 4,500 guests to be educated and entertained by Native American culture. "This event continues to be absolutely free to our local schools and community, due to grants like this," writes Thomas Zajicek. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**The Foster Care Council of Lexington
Lexington, KY**

Nominated by Christopher L. Ordway, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

The Foster Care Council of Lexington helps children in the Kentucky foster care system in a wide variety of ways. The council provides funding for individualized tutoring, clothing, summer camp, and enrichment activities, all aimed at helping increase confidence and self-esteem. The programs provide much-needed help to children in crisis, writes Christopher Ordway. "Often, they are given just a few minutes and one garbage bag to pack any belongings they can carry before they are removed from their family home," he writes. The Foster Care Council runs a "store" where foster children can choose clothing for free, and their foster families can get equipment like strollers, etc. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**The Neighborhood Transformation Center
Elmira, NY**

Nominated by Christopher B. Reynolds, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Located in one of Elmira's poorest neighborhoods, the Transformation Center provides programs that help people feel accepted and loved. After-school and summer programs provide a wholesome and safe environment for children ages 5 to 12. Community meals, parenting classes, social service advocacy, and even a free laundry program are part of the offerings. "As relationships are formed, people we have helped are coming to help us help other people. We are truly transforming our neighborhood," writes Christopher Reynolds. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**The Wish Project, Inc.
North Chelmsford, MA**

Nominated by Gregory S. Hoff, Corning Life Sciences, Tewksbury, MA

When homeless families get a roof over their head, they face additional expenses like getting basic furniture, clothing, and household supplies. This strain on their budgets can increase the likelihood of becoming homeless again. The Wish Project helps address that need by providing basic goods to 35,000 qualified clients in northeastern Massachusetts each year. By providing home goods to those in need, writes Gregory Hoff, "The Wish Project helps people create a home for themselves and their families, which is at the heart of community building." **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Theater Network of Wilmington, Inc.
Wilmington, NC**

Nominated by Kevin C. Parker, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Theater arts can help children develop self-confidence, interpersonal skills, and a sound interpretation in the world in which they live. These skills can help them resist environments where bullying, drugs, and gangs are serious problems. The Theater Network of Wilmington provides after-school theater classes, two yearly productions, summer camps, and other drama programs for youth throughout Wilmington. "Through creative play and improvisation, our students find their voice and learn to confront life's challenges with perspective," writes Kevin Parker. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Tough Techs 151 Robotics
Nashua, NH**

Nominated by John J. Czernikowski, Corning Life Sciences, Keene, NH

The Nashua Robotics team, part of FIRST Robotics, challenges teams to build a robot during a six-week-long period each year. Mentors and coaches help guide the students through the process. The program inspires students to pursue careers in science in technology. Students also learn capabilities for a well-rounded life, including self-confidence, communications, and leadership. John Czernikowski, who was once a student participant in FIRST Robotics, is now a mentor to Tough Techs 151 in Nashua, NH. "I am very proud to give other students the same opportunity that I had," he writes. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, Inc. (WARM)
Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Stephanie L. Morris, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

WARM is dedicated to helping senior citizens and lower-income homeowners remain safely in their residences. Volunteers provide repairs and remodeling to make homes safer and more accessible. The group also raises funds for urgent repairs, particularly when natural disasters like hurricanes and floods sweep through the area. WARM serves people in Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender Counties. "Every WARM rebuild site presents a new set of challenges, and with that always come new opportunities to learn construction skills and grow alongside a team of volunteers," writes Stephanie Morris. **This grant will be for general program support.**

WDFB-FM
Danville, KY

Nominated by William C. Goodin, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

WDFB-FM is a radio station that has been a staple in the Boyle County community since 1992. Started with the intent of helping people, the programs provide educational content as well as news and weather information. "It's amazing to hear stories from the people that worked there, and how they educate thousands of people not only in the state, but across the world," writes William Goodin. The station operations solely on donations. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Western Piedmont Symphony
Hickory, NC

Nominated by Adam G. Neilly, Corning Life Sciences, Tewksbury, MA

The Western Piedmont Symphony is one of only two professional orchestras in Western North Carolina. It is widely considered the musical flagship of the Hickory community. It provides 85 concerts per year in a 12-county region, many of them in schools. As a mainstay of the Catawba County non-profit arts and cultural community, it plays a major role in generating nearly \$50 million in total economic activity for the region each year. "There is no doubt that Catawba County is a thriving and vibrant arts community with plentiful cultural opportunities, many of which are created by the Western Piedmont Symphony," writes Adam Neilly. **This grant will be for general program support.**