



The  
**Sheltering Arms**  
Foundation

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## **Sheltering Arms Foundation announces 2023-24 slate of grantees, awards \$540,000 to 50 Minnesota nonprofits serving children**

MINNEAPOLIS, October 24, 2023 — Children’s mental health continues to be in crisis across this country, and many organizations are seeing the benefits of using cultural programming and the arts to support children’s mental health. To help meet the urgent needs here in Minnesota, the Sheltering Arms Foundation continues to be committed to funding mental health supports in addition to early childhood and out-of-school-time programs. Today, Sheltering Arms announced its 2023-24 financial support of 50 nonprofit organizations that are working hard to deliver high-quality programming to our state’s most vulnerable children. Sheltering Arms will invest \$540,000 in innovative direct service programs in early childhood and out-of-school-time youth development, as well as statewide advocacy campaigns designed to improve Minnesota’s policies that impact children and their families.

“Sheltering Arms is hearing from all our grantees, no matter what their focus area is, that the mental health needs of the children they are serving are high. This is compounded by the fact that Minnesota doesn’t have enough mental health providers, and in particular there aren’t enough Black, Indigenous, and providers of color,” said Diane Grossman, executive director of the Sheltering Arms Foundation. “We are also seeing the effects from the Covid pandemic – kids who missed preschool and kindergarten, which is when you learn how to be in a classroom and with a group of children, those kids are now in second and third grade, and many are struggling. Many of our grantees are building mental health modalities into their programming, and those modalities are coming in a variety of creative ways.”

One such grantee in Sheltering Arms’ youth development funding area is **the Indigenous Lacrosse Alliance (ILA)** in Minneapolis, which is partnering with the Fond du Lac band in northeastern Minnesota. ILA’s mission is to expand access and opportunity for Indigenous communities to play lacrosse, a sport that originated in Indigenous communities, and to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous youth. Indigenous youth deserve culturally responsive outlets and safe places to play for their development, and ILA is proud to support them through traditional cultural practices and the sport of lacrosse itself. This program will operate at the Brookston Center, a community center on the Fond du Lac reservation, and the Fond du Lac Tribal School. The youth will also be supported by mental health services through Brookston Center.

“The Indigenous Lacrosse Alliance is super grateful for the support from our generous donor, Sheltering Arms,” said Corbyn Tao, executive director of the ILA. “Their commitment to youth development allows the ILA to instill cultural pride and sportsmanship through the game of lacrosse and provide a community for the youth on and off the field. Together, as a part of the ILA, we are dedicated to preserving our heritage, fostering a healthy community, and creating a lasting connection through the power of lacrosse. Thank you for supporting us and making a difference in the lives of our youth.”

(more)

Another Sheltering Arms grantee is using the arts and theatre to support the mental health of young children: **Pillsbury United Communities** in Minneapolis believes the arts are an important antidote to trauma, so with a grant in the early childhood funding category, they are expanding the number of arts disciplines taught in its Pillsbury House + Theatre childcare program and bringing in resident teaching artists to work with the young children. Pillsbury House Theatre and childcare center operate in south Minneapolis just blocks from George Floyd Square. This area has experienced a great deal of upheaval since the murder of George Floyd as well as the ongoing challenges it has faced due to racism and poverty. All Pillsbury House employees, including the early learning teachers and teaching artists, receive training about trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES).

“Funding from Sheltering Arms is allowing Pillsbury House + Theatre to provide immersive ongoing arts integration for Pillsbury Early Education toddlers and preschoolers and their families,” said Noel Raymond, senior director arts & culture of Pillsbury House Theatre. “All of the activities that we are able to implement leverage the deep expertise of early childhood educators and working professional artists to support our youngest community members. This helps them not only in meeting critical developmental milestones, but also activating, expressing, and celebrating their creativity – setting them up for a lifetime of using their imaginations to dream new things into being and make what they dream.”

In Sheltering Arms’ early childhood funding category, 27 grantees received a total of \$256,000. This includes \$70,000 over 6 advocacy/public policy grants, continuing the foundation’s work to improve systems and policies that affect Minnesota’s children. In the youth development funding category, 23 programs received a total of \$206,000 in grants. Areas served by the 50 Sheltering Arms grantees include Blooming Prairie, Brooklyn Center, Duluth, Fond du Lac Reservation, Golden Valley, McGregor, Mille Lacs Reservation, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Northfield, Red Wing, Rochester, St. Paul, White Bear Lake, and Winona.

The 50 grantees supported by Sheltering Arms in 2023-2024 are:

- 826 MSP (Minneapolis)—\$15,000 grant (youth development)
- Baby’s Space (Minneapolis)—\$15,000 grant (early childhood)
- Banyan Community (south Minneapolis)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)
- Boys & Girls Club of Rochester (Rochester)—\$8,000 grant (youth development)
- Child Care Aware of MN (St. Paul, serves statewide)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy, early childhood)
- Children’s Defense Fund/MN (St. Paul, serves statewide)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy in early ch.)
- Children’s Theatre Company (south Minneapolis)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)
- CommonBond Communities (St. Paul, serves 52 cities in Minn., Wisc., and Iowa)—\$12,000 grant (youth development)
- COMPAS, Inc (St. Paul, serves statewide)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)
- Duluth Community School Collaborative (Duluth)—\$15,000 grant (youth development)
- The Family Partnership (Minneapolis)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)
- Family Wise (Minneapolis, serves statewide)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy in early childhood)
- First Children’s Finance (Minneapolis, serves statewide)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy in early ch.)
- Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center (St. Paul)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)
- Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County (Red Wing, serves Goodhue County)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)
- Hospitality House Youth Development (Minneapolis)—\$8,000 grant (youth development)
- Illusion Theater and School, Inc. (Minneapolis, serves statewide)—\$12,000 grant (youth devel.)
- Indigenous Lacrosse Alliance (Minneapolis, with Fond du Lac Reservation)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)
- Jeremiah Program Rochester-Southeast MN (Rochester)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)
- Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Minneapolis (Golden Valley, serves statewide)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)
- Joyce Preschool (south Minneapolis)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Keystone Community Services (St. Paul)—\$12,000 grant (youth development)
- Liberty Community Church (north Minneapolis)—\$12,000 grant (youth development)
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (St. Paul, serves statewide)—\$15,000 grant (early child.)
- Mentor North (Duluth)—\$15,000 grant (youth development)
- Neighborhood House (St. Paul)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)
- Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (Northfield)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)
- Northland Foundation (Duluth, serves northeastern Minnesota)—\$15,000 grant (early childhood)
- Northside Achievement Zone (north Minneapolis)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)
- Nurse-Family Partnership (Denver, CO, serves nationwide; in Minnesota serves in 32 counties and 2 tribal nations)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)
- People Serving People (Minneapolis)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy in early childhood)
- Pillsbury United Communities (Minneapolis)—\$12,000 grant (early childhood)
- Plymouth Christian Youth Center (north Minneapolis)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)
- Project FINE (Winona)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)
- Project for Pride in Living (Minneapolis, serves metro)—\$15,000 grant (youth development)
- Project Friendship (Northfield)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)
- ServeMinnesota (Minneapolis, serves statewide)—\$15,000 grant (early childhood)
- Solid Ground (White Bear Lake)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)
- Something Cool, Inc. (McGregor, serves surrounding communities in Aitkin County, including Mille Lacs Reservation)—\$12,000 grant (youth development)
- St. David's Center for Child & Family Development, acting as fiscal agent for MCFHV (MCFHV serves statewide)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy in early childhood)
- St. David's Center for Child & Family Development (Minnetonka, serves metro)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)
- Urban Strategies, Inc. (St. Louis, MO, serves Heritage Park affordable housing in north Minneapolis)—\$12,000 grant (youth development)
- Urban Ventures Leadership Foundation (south Minneapolis)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)
- Walker West Music Academy (St. Paul)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)
- Washburn Center for Children (Minneapolis, serves metro)—\$12,000 grant (early childhood)
- YMCA of the North (Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro area)—\$10,000 grant (youth devel.)
- Youable Emotional Health Services (Minneapolis)—\$5,000 grant (early childhood)
- Youth Farm (Minneapolis)—\$7,500 grant (youth development)
- YWCA of Duluth (Duluth)—\$5,500 grant (early childhood)
- YWCA of Minneapolis (Minneapolis)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For information about each grantee and what they are using the Sheltering Arms' grant funds to do this year, a fact sheet of the annotated list of 2023-2024 grantees is available.

#### **About the Sheltering Arms Foundation**

The mission of the Sheltering Arms Foundation is to invest in the lives of children and help them reach their full potential. Based in Minneapolis, the foundation funds nonprofit organizations and supports policies that benefit Minnesota children and their families who have the least access to resources. Since its inception as a grantmaking foundation in 1983, the foundation has provided more than 1,450 grants totaling just over \$18.3 million. The next deadline for grant applications is in January 2024. For information about submitting a grant request, volunteering, or donating to the foundation, visit <https://sheltering-arms.org/> or call 612-871-9210 (toll-free: 866-871-9210).

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