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Buffalo Together Fund Announces 30 Grant Awardees to Empower East Side Community

Fund was established in the wake of the Tops massacre to address long-term community investment on Buffalo's East Side

Buffalo, NY – [May 15th, 2025] – The Buffalo Together Community Response Fund (BTRCF) has announced 30 grants totaling \$600,000 to be awarded to organizations dedicated to uplifting and serving the vibrant East Side community of Buffalo.

The Fund was formed through a collaborative effort of 14 local funding organizations in the aftermath of the 2022 racially motivated massacre at Tops Market on Buffalo's East Side. The collaborative effort was established to create a more just and equitable community by addressing challenges on the East Side and to invest in organizations and projects that strengthen the community.

The awarded grants of up to \$25,000 each will support a diverse array of projects and programs aimed at enhancing community well-being, promoting economic development, and providing essential services. The competitive grant process attracted 80 applications that were evaluated on their service to the East Side, commitment to making a positive impact on the community, and that address long-term, systemic issues, which existed before the tragedy and continue today. The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, an original funder of BTRCF, managed the grant process.

“This initiative marks a step forward in our commitment to fostering growth, resilience, and opportunity in our neighborhoods,” said Dr. LaVonne Ansari, Chair of the Buffalo Together Fund Steering Committee. “The Buffalo Together Fund is just one of a number of initiatives that are focusing efforts on the East Side, and together, we believe we can have a significant impact. Led by a steering committee made up of community leaders and those impacted by the massacre, The Buffalo Together Fund has worked diligently and

thoughtfully on how best to direct funds to create resiliency, and we are pleased to announce these investments in key projects that will strengthen the East side,” she continued.

The following organizations have been awarded grants:

- 716 Ministries-Empowering Futures: 716 Ministries Career Exploration
- African American Cultural Center of Buffalo: Renovation of the African American Cultural Center
- African American Veterans Monument Inc.: Honoring Legacy: Engaging Community at the African American Veterans Monument
- Back to Basics Outreach Ministries: Buffalo Peacemakers Violence Prevention Initiatives
- Belmont Housing Resources for WNY: Growing Homeowners on Buffalo's East Side
- Beverly Gray Business Exchange Center, Inc: Seed & Scale - "Investing in ideas. Building up Buffalo."
- Buffalo Funk Fest Foundation: Buffalo Funk Fest/Jefferson Avenue Friday Night Live Summer Series
- Buffalo Go Green, Inc.: Hydroponic Farm
- Dress for Success Buffalo: Buffalo Mobile Unit - Expanding Work Access, Programs and Resources
- Dumas R.I.S.E Providers, Inc.: RISE Forward: Building Capacity for Community Wellness
- Durham’s Maternal Street-Free Zone DH Inc.: The Intergenerational Zone
- Every Bottom Covered, Inc.: From the Womb: An Eastside Maternal Health Initiative
- Fare Share WNY, Inc.: 716 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program
- Felician Community Services: Wellness Market at the Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry
- Fillmore Forward: Square Community Garden and Community Space - Nature Sacred
- Gerard Place: Delavan Healthcare Career Training

- Girls Sport Foundation: Capacity Building for Equity in Sports & Mentorship at G.I.R.L.S Sports Foundation
- Grant Lady Foundation, Inc.: Buffalo Eastside Nonprofit Development
- Grassroots Gardens WNY: Building Community Capacity for Stewardship and Sustainability of East Side Community Gardens
- Gardens Buffalo Niagara: Expansion of Lunenfeld Beautification Program on Buffalo's East Side
- King Urban Life Center: Opening Doors: Adapting Parentchild+ for Neurodivergent Children
- Locust Street Neighborhood Art Classes, Inc.: Locust Street Art Community Building
- Metro Community Development Corporation: DGCC: Continuing to Serve the Eastside into the Future
- Most Valuable Parents of Buffalo: MVP: Parents Supporting Parents
- Open Buffalo, Inc – Main: Open Buffalo Leadership Development
- People Who Care Project: Let's Go Build
- Project Mona's House: The Overcomer Academy, a housing and empowerment Initiative for women
- The Foundry: FOUNDRYmade: Expanding Workforce Development & Community
- Western New York Election Protection Coalition: East Side Civics Research Program
- WNY Young Achievers Awards: Black Boys Read Too: Bookshelf and Book Club Expansion

Since its inception in 2022, BTCRF has raised \$6.3 million and provided emergency response grants totaling \$655,000 to 86 community-based organizations serving the East Side in the immediate aftermath of the mass shooting. The remaining funds were designated for creating a long-term community investment strategy to address systemic issues on the East Side. The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo has covered the operating costs of the collaborative group including the costs for Rainbow Research, an outside consulting firm, to work with the community, conduct research, and develop strategies to address key issues on the East Side. A report outlining key initiatives was recently released and can be found [here](#). Initial steps include creating a 501c3 nonprofit organization and the establishment of a community hub to continue to address long-

standing structural oppression and lack of investment that have harmed communities of color and blocked investment in East Side neighborhoods.

About Buffalo Together:

Buffalo Together is a community-based organization committed to addressing the impacts of systemic oppression and fostering racial justice in Buffalo, NY. Through collaboration, advocacy, and empowerment, Buffalo Together aims to create lasting change and support the revitalization of East Side neighborhoods. Learn more at buffalotogetherfund.org