

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **Blue & You Foundation awards \$2.7 million in grants to improve health**

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (November 16, 2018)** – Whether helping to train nurses, supporting community gardens and food programs, providing opioid intervention or funding dental services for the needy, the Blue & You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas touches the lives of many Arkansans. The Foundation recently awarded a total of \$2,733,532 in grants to 42 health improvement programs in Arkansas.

“Our grants this year went to programs across the state that address such issues as nutrition and exercise, food insecurity, emergency medical services and medical professional education,” said Patrick O’Sullivan, executive director of the Blue & You Foundation.

Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield established the Blue & You Foundation in 2001 as a charitable foundation to promote better health in Arkansas. The Blue & You Foundation awards grants annually to non-profit or governmental organizations and programs that positively affect the health of Arkansans.

In its 17 years of operation, the Blue & You Foundation has awarded \$33 million to 1,566 health improvement programs in Arkansas.

The grants awarded for 2019 are:

**Arkansas Children’s Foundation, Little Rock (\$150,000)** – The Tackling Asthma and its Social Determinants Program will train 200 school nurses in management of asthma through the Arkansas School Nurse Academies.

**Arkansas Council on Economic Education, Little Rock (\$12,350)** – The Healthy Meals on a Tight Budget Program will educate 120 PreK-12 teachers across the state on how to prepare nutritious, low-cost meals through six Cooking Matters workshops.

## **Blue & You Foundation Grants Awarded, Page 2**

**Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Little Rock (\$83,808)** – The Produce Gleaning and Gardening Expansion Program will work with three food banks to distribute fresh produce to 104,000 food-insecure Arkansans in 24 counties.

**Arkansas Immunization Action Coalition, Little Rock (\$37,374)** – The Arkansas Immunization Institution for Medical Assistants Program will provide eight immunization trainings with continuing education for approximately 250-350 Arkansas Medical Assistants.

**Arkansas State University Foundation, Jonesboro (\$89,098)** – The A-State SimBaby Project will purchase a pediatric simulator to provide 125 nursing students at the Jonesboro campus with simulation experience using a manikin.

**Arkansas State University Mountain Home (\$130,302)** – The Enhancing Student Success with Simulation Program will purchase simulation equipment, including a SimMan 3G and a female manikin.

**Arkansas Zoological Foundation, Little Rock (\$143,500)** – The Zoo will construct a physically and mentally stimulating playground to encourage families to enjoy the outdoors.

**Augusta First United Methodist Church (\$10,000)** – The Children's Sack Lunch Program will provide healthy food for 30 children in the Augusta community during the summer and on weekends during the school year.

**Baptist Health Foundation, Little Rock (\$60,000)** – The Healthy Active Arkansas Baby Friendly Project Phase II will improve maternity care practices in delivery hospitals by adopting the 10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding and achieving the Baby Friendly Hospital designation.

**Bost Foundation, Fort Smith (\$6,546)** – The ArTs at Bost Program will provide art classes and art activities for 95 individuals with behavioral health challenges or developmental disabilities in Sebastian County.

**Camp Aldersgate, Little Rock (\$32,603)** – The Playground Renovation Program will renovate the existing playground to serve approximately 400 children and youth with special needs each year.

**Cherry Valley Food Pantry (\$10,000)** – The Food for the Hungry Program will provide weekly food to 80-100 food-insecure families in Cherry Valley and Vanndale in Cross County.

**City of Crossett Recreation Department (\$100,000)** – The Crossett Swim Again Program will repair and improve the Crossett City Pool.

### **Blue & You Foundation Grants Awarded, Page 3**

**City of Pine Bluff (\$25,000)** – The Community Garden Program will distribute fresh produce to 50-100 families that are food-insecure.

**City of Pocahontas (\$21,200)** – The Health and Fitness Project will provide exercise equipment for the Pocahontas Aquatic Center.

**City of Thornton (\$27,772)** – The Jaws of Life Program will purchase Jaws of Life to provide volunteer firefighters with the proper equipment to extract people from accidents in a safe manner.

**City of Waldron (\$135,000)** – The City Park Phase II Program will construct a basketball court, a sand pit with climbing boulders and dinosaurs, a playground area with swings and connecting sidewalks for development of a multi-use trail.

**Criminal Justice Institute, Little Rock (\$150,000)** – The Expanding the Arkansas Naloxone Project will provide Naloxone administration training and 1,390 Naloxone kits to 29 Arkansas law enforcement agencies.

**Dana's House, DeWitt (\$5,000)** – The Education and Learning Center will provide learning equipment, supplies, tutors and school expenses for 30-40 abused children.

**Danville Area Chamber of Commerce (\$7,000)** – The Danville Disc Golf Course Program will increase the health and fitness of the Danville community.

**El Zocalo Immigrant Resource Center, Little Rock (\$10,000)** – The Health Literacy for English Language Learner Families Program will improve access to healthcare and quality of communication between families and healthcare providers in Central Arkansas.

**Good Neighbor Food Cupboard, Diamond City (\$10,631)** – The Freezer Program will purchase a walk-in freezer for use in the food pantry serving 250 individuals monthly.

**Hamburg Fire Department (\$99,536)** – The SCBA Replacement Program seeks to replace its non-compliant self-contained breathing apparatus by purchasing 13 new SCBAs to protect the city's 21 firefighters.

**Harvest Texarkana Regional Food Bank (\$30,000)** – The Mobile Hunger Relief Program will purchase shelf-stable foods and fresh produce to be distributed at mobile distribution events to 14,000 food-insecure individuals.

**Henderson State University Foundation, Arkadelphia (\$140,447)** – Henderson State University will establish a Health Education Simulation Center for 32 nursing students which will include simulation equipment and professional development.

## **Blue & You Foundation Grants Awarded, Page 4**

**Hope-in-Action, Hope (\$12,000)** – The Perishable Food Storage Program will purchase a walk-in cooler to keep produce fresh for distribution to 300 monthly food pantry clients.

**Hot Spring County, Malvern (\$54,240)** – The Firefighter Protective Turnout Suits Program will provide two, full personal protective suits for each of 11 certified rural volunteer fire departments.

**Ivy Center for Education, Pine Bluff (\$2,433)** – The Club Scrub Future Medical Professionals Program will hold an 8-week workshop to interest 25 high school students in becoming doctors or other health professionals in Jefferson County.

**McGehee Hospital (\$145,960)** – The Establish a Chronic Care Management Program will hire two nursing positions to serve 300 patients with chronic health conditions.

**Museum of Discovery, Little Rock (\$87,750)** – The Tinkering to a Healthier Brain Program will create a traveling exhibit about healthy brain development for 20 network member institutions across Arkansas.

**Philander Smith College, Little Rock (\$149,978)** – The Allied Health Simulation Lab will train 20 students yearly to become nursing professionals in the Central Arkansas area, by developing an Allied Health Simulation Lab for the accreditation of the nursing program.

**Project HOPE Food Bank, Hot Springs (\$25,000)** – The Senior Emergency Food Box Program will provide 900 senior citizens with food in the Garland County area.

**Samaritan House Community Center, Rogers (\$20,000)** – The Samaritan Dental Hygiene and Oral Health Education Program will provide oral hygiene services to uninsured adults and oral health education opportunities to at-risk adults in Northwest Arkansas.

**Springdale School District (\$150,000)** – The Safe Playground Renovation Program will provide five play areas on five elementary school grounds in Springdale, which will be open to the community when school is not in session.

**Stop the Bleeding Foundation, Jonesboro (\$149,973)** – The First Response Life Saving Kits for North Central Arkansas Trauma Program will purchase 600 kits to train, certify and equip 600 North Central Arkansas police officers, firefighters and first responders to provide life-saving care in the field.

**Trumann Food Pantry (\$25,000)** – The Community Garden Project will expand the community garden in Trumann.

## **Blue & You Foundation Grants Awarded, Page 5**

**UAMS, Little Rock (\$133,247)** – The AR-IMPACT (Improving Multidisciplinary Pain Care and Treatment) Program will continue its multidisciplinary video consultation team to aid 1,700 providers in identifying and using viable pain-management solutions for patients who have problem opioid use.

**UAPB, Pine Bluff (\$109,630)** – The Nursing Department and Campus Enhancements Program will provide enhanced clinical lab and AED training for 24 nursing students attending UAPB.

**University of Arkansas Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, Morrilton (\$30,000)** – The Rural Health Summit Initiative will retain and recruit primary care physicians and increase the use of innovative healthcare solutions in rural areas, by convening 120 stakeholders in rural health.

**WelcomeHealth, Fayetteville (\$40,913)** – The Restorative Dental Care Project will provide dental care for 1,129 low-income adults and children in Northwest Arkansas.

**White River Health System, Batesville (\$60,520)** – The Telemedicine Project will purchase two satellite backpacks for telemedicine activities in areas with little or no broadband support.

**Youth Home, Little Rock (\$9,721)** – The Youth Gardening for Emotional and Mental Health Program will have 64 youth build gardens for emotional support.

The Blue & You Foundation received 232 grant applications requesting \$17 million in support. The 2019 grant selections were made by Blue & You Foundation board members: Robert D. Cabe, chairman of the board, Little Rock; Mark Greenway, Lowell; James V. Kelley, Little Rock; Carla Martin, Pine Bluff; Dan Nabholz, Conway; Rex Terry, Fort Smith; and Mark White, Little Rock.

The application deadline for the foundation's next funding cycle is Jul. 15, 2019. For more information about the grant application process, visit the foundation Web site at [www.BlueAndYouFoundationArkansas.org](http://www.BlueAndYouFoundationArkansas.org).

The foundation is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association and serves the state of Arkansas. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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