



The Promise of a Brighter Tomorrow

The Fieldhouse for the Homeless in Hattiesburg, MS



Situation

Volunteers at The Fieldhouse for the Homeless in Hattiesburg, Mississippi are, in their words, “on the front lines of hopelessness and despair.” They turn that despair, however, into hope, one person at a time. Since its inception in September 2013 by cofounders Cynthia Young and Priscilla Brown, the nonprofit has helped more than 350 people get identification cards, more than 300 people find housing, and 250 people find jobs.

What’s more, they did this while being funded entirely by donations. However, the nature of nonprofits leaves little money for keeping the lights on and applying for much-needed grants.

Solution

Six member institutions of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas (FHLB Dallas) joined together in a Partnership Grant Program award for The Fieldhouse.

All together, FHLB Dallas plus the six banks — The First - A National Banking Association, Citizens National Bank of Meridian, Magnolia State Bank, Priority One Bank, Citizens Bank, Trustmark National Bank, and BancorpSouth Bank —awarded \$28,000 to The Fieldhouse, which has a day center with a locker room, showers, computer services, and laundry facilities.

Clients receive assistance with housing, basic educational services, and referrals to service agencies.

Results

The Fieldhouse plans to use the PGP award for operating expenses, as well as to fund the cost of a grant writer, who will be helpful when applying for major grants. “Our mission is to give people a hand up, not a hand out,” said Cynthia. Young, who, with Priscilla Brown is a cofounder and director of The Fieldhouse.

Those helped by The Fieldhouse include families and individuals like Stephanie, a registered nurse from Meridian, Mississippi, whose disability after a car accident forced her into homelessness. “They took me under their wing,” she said. Because of The Fieldhouse, “I feel like I am not a burden to society, and I have a purpose now. They are a blessing to me.” She said she is hoping to heal, so that she can return to nursing — her passion.

Through the PGP, FHLB Dallas awards grants through its member institutions, to provide funding for the operational needs of community-based organizations involved in affordable housing and economic development.

FHLB Dallas matches the cash contribution of a member financial institution to a community-based organization of \$500 up to \$5,000 at a 3:1 ratio. Through its members, FHLB Dallas awarded \$225,000 in partnership grants in 2014.

From despair to hope, one person at a time.

Community Benefit

\$28,000 FHLB Dallas Partnership Grant Program award

Beneficiary

The Fieldhouse for the Homeless in Hattiesburg, MS

Participating Members

- Bancorp South Bank
- Citizens Bank
- Citizens National Bank of Meridian
- First National
- Magnolia State Bank
- Priority One Bank
- Trustmark National Bank

To learn more, visit fhlb.com or contact:

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