

Mutual of America Foundation

# 2022 Community Partnership Award



Recognizing  
People Working  
Together to  
Build Better  
Communities



# 256

Award recipients  
honored since 1996.



Mutual of  
America  
headquarters,  
New York, NY



**“Mutual of America has been dedicated to helping our customers achieve their retirement and investment goals for the past 78 years. This commitment, together with our culture of caring, helps us continue to make a profoundly positive impact in the communities across the country where we live and work.”**

**John R. Greed**

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Mutual of America Financial Group



# About Mutual of America Financial Group

Mutual of America Financial Group is a leading provider of retirement services and investments to employers, employees and individuals. We provide high-quality, innovative products and services at a competitive price, along with outstanding personalized service, to help our customers build and preserve assets for a financially secure future. Our mission is built upon our values—integrity, prudence, reliability, excellence and social responsibility—which have guided us since 1945 and continue to serve us and our customers well.

We believe the power of community can foster a healthier, more productive and more inclusive society. This strong sense of social responsibility is seen in our customer-first attitude and in the many ways that we care for and give back to the communities we serve throughout the U.S. Together with the Mutual of America Foundation, our Company's philanthropic arm, we are working to shape a more promising future by helping to address some of the most pressing issues in the country today.

## Contents

- 1 About Mutual of America Financial Group
- 2 Collaborating to Drive Change:  
A Message from John R. Greed
- 4 Q&A with Lisa Loughry, Chair,  
Mutual of America Foundation
- 6 About the Mutual of America Foundation  
Community Partnership Award
- 7 Scaling Impact for Stronger Communities
- 8 Independent Oversight;  
Selection Committee Members
- 9 Remembering Frances R. Hesselbein

### 2022 National Award-Winning Program

#### Thomas J. Moran Award Recipient

- 10 Patriot PAWS Prison Training Program

### Frances R. Hesselbein Award Recipient

- 12 Child Advocate Program

### Honorable Mention Award Recipients

- 14 Give Items of Value Program
- 16 Neighborhood Vacancy Initiative
- 18 Safer Tomorrows Road Map Program
- 20 Work and Life Skills Training Program

### Community Partnership Award Impact

- 22 Past Winners: What They're Saying
- 24 Past National Award-Winning Programs

### Directory

- 28 2022 Award-Winning Programs

# Collaborating to Drive Change

## A Message from John R. Greed




Promoting the welfare of others has always been an integral part of Mutual of America's culture. We were founded in 1945 as the National Health & Welfare Retirement Association by an extraordinary group of business leaders who were dedicated to supporting the nonprofit social sector. These leaders believed that every worker, especially those who dedicate their lives to working in the social sector, who at that time were not even covered by Social Security, deserves a financially secure and dignified retirement.

For 78 years, this strong sense of social responsibility has been seen in the many ways we support nonprofit organizations across the country. Notably, our Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award was created in 1996 specifically to recognize and support nonprofits that, in partnership


with the public and private sectors, are creating innovative solutions to the pressing social and economic challenges faced by their local communities and making a meaningful difference in the lives of those most in need. Now in its 27th year, the Community Partnership Award has become one of the most prestigious and coveted national awards in the country.

As we look to the future, I am pleased to have Lisa Loughry, who now serves as Chair of the Mutual America Foundation in addition to her primary responsibilities as Mutual of America Financial Group's Executive Vice President of National Accounts, also taking a leadership role with respect to our annual Community Partnership Award competition.

Under Lisa's leadership, working together with the Community Partnership Award



**“As you will read in the Community Partnership Award profiles that follow, each of the award-winning programs is making a substantial difference in the lives of those it serves. I am honored to recognize the achievements of these outstanding, forward-thinking nonprofits as they work in collaboration with the public and private sectors to help individuals and families in their communities reach for a better life.”**



competition's independent Selection Committee, I am delighted to announce that a new annual award was created in November 2022 and named in honor of Frances Hesselbein. Frances, who passed away in December 2022, was a longtime friend and Board member of Mutual of America and a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient. Frances' deep understanding of and connection to the nonprofit social welfare sector led to the creation of the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award in 1996, on whose Selection Committee she served as a founding member until her passing this past year.

The Frances R. Hesselbein Award will be presented annually to recognize and support a nonprofit that, in partnership with the public and private sectors, is addressing social and economic challenges by developing innovative

solutions that have been replicated, or that demonstrate the potential to be replicated, in other local communities across the country.

As you will read in the Community Partnership Award profiles that follow, each of the award-winning programs is making a substantial difference in the lives of those it serves. I am honored to recognize the achievements of these outstanding, forward-thinking nonprofits as they work in collaboration with the public and private sectors to help individuals and families in their communities reach for a better life.



John R. Greed  
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Mutual of America Financial Group

# Q&A with Lisa Loughry

## Chair Mutual of America Foundation

Lisa Loughry was named Chair of the Mutual of America Foundation in February 2022, after the retirement of Thomas Gilliam. She has been with Mutual of America since 2014 and also oversees the Company's National Accounts. We recently spoke with Lisa about her new responsibilities, and her vision for the Foundation and the Community Partnership Award going forward.



### **What are you most excited about in your role as Chair of the Mutual of America Foundation?**

Mutual of America was founded by an exceptional group of leaders who believed that every worker deserves a financially secure retirement. As Executive Vice President of National Accounts, I am proud to advance that purpose by delivering the innovative retirement plan solutions and investments our clients need and deserve. At the same time, I've been inspired by the life-changing work that many of our nonprofit social sector clients do every day.

Now, as Chair of the Mutual of America Foundation, I am especially honored and excited to have the opportunity to support these remarkable causes and to engage with

Mutual of America employees, our clients, and nonprofit organizations from across the country to continue making a meaningful, positive impact on the communities where we live and work.

### **The Community Partnership Award honors nonprofit organizations that collaborate with others in their communities to effect change. Why are those partnerships so important?**

Change is difficult, and it often takes collaboration across communities to move the needle on society's most pressing issues. For nearly four decades, the Foundation has been helping to ignite community-based change through the support of initiatives focused on education and economic empowerment, arts and culture, and community transformation—most notably

**“We are pleased to have Lisa’s leadership  
as the Foundation continues to help  
in building a strong, vibrant society for  
all Americans.”**

—John R. Greed

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Mutual of America Financial Group

through the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award. The Foundation also provides grants and corporate gifts to hundreds of organizations working for the greater good.

**What kind of impact are you hoping to see as it relates to the Foundation’s goals, priorities and community collaborations?**

Innovative nonprofits, like our Community Partnership Award winners, have never had a bigger role to play in helping to solve pressing social and economic challenges faced by local communities. At the same time, they’ve never needed more support. In 2021, we increased the financial award provided to our Community Partnership Award winners and

hosted our 26th annual celebration event to honor these amazing organizations. In 2022, we introduced the Frances R. Hesselbein Award, which is given to a partnership that has created innovative solutions to social challenges and replicated—or demonstrated the potential to replicate—those solutions in other local communities. This increased the number of annual Community Partnership Award winners to six. In the years ahead, we hope to support even more nonprofits across the country in their efforts to create communities where every person has access to the opportunities they need to thrive.



# About the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award



## FAR LEFT

2021 Community Partnership Award Dinner (l-r): Brian Severin, Senior Executive Vice President and CMO, Mutual of America Financial Group; Joel Copperman, Former CEO and President of CASES; Lisa Loughry, Chair, Mutual of America Foundation; John R. Greed, Chairman, President and CEO, Mutual of America Financial Group.

## The Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award (CPA) was created in 1996 by the Mutual of America Foundation.

Each year, we honor nonprofit organizations from across the country that are helping to move our nation forward by building healthier, more equitable communities. Now in its 27th year, this prestigious award encourages nonprofits that work in partnership with public, private and other social sector organizations to demonstrate:

1. The measurable impact their program is having in the communities it serves.
2. What they are doing to replicate and share their program for the benefit of other local communities.
3. How they are innovating new approaches to meeting new and evolving community needs.

In 2022, an independent committee selected six Community Partnership Award winners from nearly 500 organizations that applied for an award. From this group:

- **One organization received the Thomas J. Moran Award**, which is given to the national award-winning program. The Thomas J. Moran Award-winning organization received \$100,000 and a documentary video about its program. Past winners have used their videos as a valuable tool to expand public awareness of their work and to help attract additional partners and sponsors.
- **One organization received the newly established Frances R. Hesselbein Award** and \$50,000. This award will annually recognize a partnership that is addressing social challenges in more than one community, or which demonstrates the potential to be replicated in other communities.
- **Four organizations were named Honorable Mention Award recipients.** Each received \$50,000.

It is with enormous pride that the Mutual of America Foundation presents profiles of the 2022 Community Partnership Award winners. We also invite you to visit the official Mutual of America Foundation YouTube channel to see the videos created for each of the 27 national award-winning programs.

# 500

Approximate number of nonprofits that applied for the 2022 Community Partnership Award.

# 6

2022 Community Partnership Award winners.

# 256

Community Partnership Award recipients honored since 1996.



# Scaling Impact for Stronger Communities

Each year, the Community Partnership Award honors nonprofit organizations that leverage partnerships with public and private organizations in order to scale their transformative solutions to critical social challenges, within their communities and beyond.

This year's award winners were selected from a competitive pool of nearly 500 programs. Together, they represent a wide variety of creative, results-oriented organizations that are driving measurable change in their communities. They join a growing list of Community Partnership Award winners that are lighting the way to healthier, more equitable communities for all.

## A Holistic Focus

Over the past 27 years, the Community Partnership Award has recognized a diverse group of nonprofit organizations in the U.S. whose inspiring programs are tackling critical social issues, including:

Antibullying	Mental Health
Child Abuse	Poverty
Community Development	Prison Reform
Disabilities	Public Safety
Domestic Violence	Racial Equality
Education	Refugee Care
Elder Care	Sexual Violence
Employment	Special-Needs Inclusion
Family Support	Substance Abuse
Grief Support	Teen Counseling
Healthcare	Veteran Care
Homelessness	Violence Prevention
Housing	Women's Empowerment
Human Trafficking	Women's Health
Hunger Prevention	Youth
Inmate Rehabilitation	

155

Cities and towns across the United States with organizations whose programs have received the Community Partnership Award.

41

States, plus the District of Columbia, represented by organizations whose programs have received the Community Partnership Award.

# Independent Oversight

Winners of the Community Partnership Award are selected by an independent committee that is separate from the Mutual of America Foundation. Members of the committee are chosen for their breadth of experience, excellent judgment and, above all, their commitment to addressing important issues facing American communities.

The Selection Committee reviews all completed applications and then meets to assess each program against the Community Partnership Award selection criteria. Because the committee works as a group, the decision on each Community Partnership Award applicant represents a collective judgment drawn from the insights and perspectives of each of its members.

## 2022 Selection Committee Members

### **William F. Baker, Ph.D.**

Claudio Aquaviva Distinguished  
Professor of Education  
Fordham University

### **George E. Barker**

Former Executive Vice President  
for International Development  
American Cancer Society

### **Susan N. Dreyfus**

President and CEO  
Alliance for Strong Families  
and Communities

### **Carla Harris**

Vice Chair, Wealth Management  
Senior Client Advisor,  
Managing Director  
Morgan Stanley | Company Management

### **Frances R. Hesselbein**

Former Chairman  
The Frances Hesselbein  
Leadership Forum

### **Thomas Von Essen**

Former Commissioner  
New York City Fire Department

## Selection Committee Members, All-Time

1996–2022

### **William F. Baker, Ph.D.**

2011–Present

### **George E. Barker**

2009–Present

### **Richard Boyle**

1996–2005

### **Honorable Hugh Carey**

1996–2011

### **Richard J. Ciecka**

2005, 2007

### **Susan N. Dreyfus**

2020–Present

### **Dudley H. Hafner**

1996–2018

### **Carla Harris**

2014–Present

### **Frances R. Hesselbein**

1996–2022

### **William Kahn**

2006–2010

### **LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. MD**

1996–2018

### **Mary Ann Quaranta**

1996–2008

### **Francis Schott**

2006–2013

### **Andrew D. Sens**

2012–2021

### **Stanley Shmishkiss**

1998–2005

### **O. Stanley Smith, Jr.**

2004–2006

### **Thomas Von Essen**

2017–Present

### **Elie Wiesel**

1996–2016

# Remembering Frances R. Hesselbein



No one would be more uncomfortable with having accolades lavished on them than Frances Hesselbein, yet few people are more deserving of that attention. When Frances passed away at age 107 in December 2022, she left behind an incredible example and legacy in the power of partnership as a driving force in advancing a more just and equitable society.

An esteemed, longtime friend and retired Board member of Mutual of America, Frances was an important part of our Mutual of America family for more than 40 years. She served as a member of the Executive, Audit, Nominating, and Product and Marketing committees, including as Chair of the latter three, for extended periods of time.

In those roles, Frances helped guide the Company with her consummate leadership, wisdom and dedication. Her deep understanding of and connection to the nonprofit social welfare sector led to the creation of the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award in 1996, on whose Selection Committee she served as a founding member until her passing.

Her motto, “to serve is to live,” defined her life. In 1998, when President Clinton awarded Frances the

Medal of Freedom—the United States of America’s highest civilian honor—he remarked that “she has shared her remarkable recipe for inclusion and excellence with countless organizations whose bottom line is measured not in dollars, but in changed lives.” We are proud to be one of those organizations on which Frances had a profound impact.

Those of us at Mutual of America who were privileged to have known Frances benefited tremendously, because each moment spent with her was an invaluable learning experience. We will gratefully remember her kindness, integrity, commitment to service, and passion for caring, giving back and making a meaningful difference in society.

While we mourn Frances’ passing, we are comforted by the knowledge that the immense and varied contributions she made to the betterment of all humanity will continue to have a profound and positive impact on people’s lives for generations to come.

*Well done, thou good and faithful servant!*

John R. Greed  
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Mutual of America Financial Group



## 2022 National Award-Winning Program

### Thomas J. Moran Award Recipient

**400**

service dogs have  
graduated from  
the program.



# Patriot PAWS Prison Training Program

For many of our nation's brave Veterans, the lingering consequences of service-related injuries and emotional trauma can make the transition from active duty to civilian life an overwhelming struggle. A specially trained service dog can be a lifesaver to Veterans, helping them to perform everyday tasks; easing their stress, anxiety and depression; and restoring their confidence so they can reclaim the life they deserve.

Patriot PAWS Service Dogs was founded in 2006 with a mission to provide service dogs of the highest quality, at no cost, to American Veterans who have suffered debilitating injury or illness while in service to our country, as well as to others with mobility disabilities. Recognizing the growing need for service dogs, Patriot PAWS expanded its service dog training program in 2008 through a unique partnership with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

The Patriot PAWS Prison Training Program engages inmates in raising and training service dogs for the benefit of our nation's heroes. Participants learn how to teach all the basic service dog behaviors and are tested quarterly to determine their ability to train in the cues required for service dog certification. At the same time, incarcerated women and men are given

the opportunity to give back to their community, while also building valuable skills that could lead to gainful employment when they re-enter society.

"Most people understand how important a service dog can be, but a service dog brings even more to a Veteran's quality of life," said Lori Stevens, Founder and Executive Director of Patriot PAWS Service Dogs.

"As Veterans regain lost independence and emotional stability, they may find new purpose in life, and their communities may once again benefit from the unique skills and experience they offer. We are pleased to be sharing with other organizations all that we've learned about training service dogs so that we can support the needs of even more Veterans and help restore their hope for a brighter future."

**"Bonnie Sue is a wonderful companion and friend. She amazes me daily with all the ways she can push past my depression and anxiety to bring me back to the present. I'm glad Bonnie Sue chose me to rescue."**

—Stacy, Army SPC, on her service dog

## Organization

Patriot PAWS  
Service Dogs

## Program

Patriot PAWS  
Prison Training  
Program

## Partner

Texas Department  
of Criminal Justice



## 2022 Frances R. Hesselbein Award Recipient

**6,634**

unaccompanied  
and separated  
immigrant children  
served since 2004.





# Child Advocate Program

Each year, thousands of unaccompanied and separated immigrant children flee violence and other life-threatening circumstances, making an often-perilous journey to the U.S. with the hopes of finding a safer, more secure future. Once in government custody, these children must navigate an immigration system that does not have to consider their safety or best interests when deciding whether they'll be sent back to the country they left.

The Child Advocate Program was founded in 2004 by the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights to protect and advance the rights of children who arrive in the U.S. on their own. It is the only program in the nation that provides independent Child Advocates to support unaccompanied and separated immigrant children involved in deportation proceedings.

The Young Center is a national human rights organization founded in Chicago, Illinois, with eight regional offices serving 18 states. Their specially trained, bilingual/bicultural Child Advocates work with Young Center staff attorneys and social workers to understand each child's unique story and develop an appropriate advocacy plan. They accompany children to immigration court and advocate for their rights, wishes and best interests in every decision made about their lives. They also work alongside Young Center staff to determine what legal, medical, mental health, educational and social services the child may need to support them.

"With the number of unaccompanied children in immigration custody increasing, the need for legal and social services to protect their rights and well-being is even more urgent," said Marisa Chumil, Co-Director of the Child Advocate Program.

"Our advocacy for youth at risk of entering adult detention centers depends upon the strong partnerships we've built with organizations such as the Bethany House of Hospitality and the Viator House of Hospitality, which provide safe housing to youth close to turning 18 years old. Our Child Advocate Program ensures that immigrant children seeking protection and safety in the U.S. receive the essential advocacy services they need to heal and thrive."

**"Witnessing the Young Center's commitment to making the world a safer place for children gives me hope that immigrant children will one day be treated with the dignity and care that all children deserve."**

—Bernardo Salazar, Volunteer Child Advocate

## **Organization**

Young Center  
for Immigrant  
Children's Rights

## **Program**

Child Advocate  
Program

## **Partners**

Bethany House  
of Hospitality  
(for young women)

Viator House  
of Hospitality  
(for young men)

## 2022 Honorable Mention Award Recipient

**\$2.6 million**  
in goods distributed in 2022.



# Give Items of Value

Each year, excess inventory and unsold goods pile up in warehouses, offices and stores, taking up valuable space and creating a serious financial drag on manufacturers and retailers. What if companies could make better use of unwanted and returned stock—and benefit others at the same time?

United Way of the Plains launched the Give Items of Value (GIV) program in 1984 to create a bridge between national retailers and other big businesses with excess inventory and nonprofit organizations in south central Kansas whose tight budgets limit their ability to purchase critical supplies to support their mission. Working in collaboration with Good360, which sources truckloads of unwanted merchandise from for-profit organizations, United Way of the Plains receives surplus inventory in its 11,000-square-foot warehouse. Volunteers then inventory, sort and stock donated items so that schools, 501(c) organizations and other nonprofit organizations can “shop” for the items they need, free of charge.

United Way of the Plains was founded in 1922 to improve lives by harnessing the caring power of the community so that all individuals and families can achieve their full human potential. A century later, the organization’s collective impact continues to grow. For every dollar donated, United Way of the Plains creates \$2.20 worth of impact within the community.

“The Give Items of Value program plays a critical role in the nonprofit landscape in south central Kansas,” said Pete Najera, CEO and President of United Way of the Plains.

“By donating excess goods, corporate America can reduce inventory in a socially responsible way and earn tax benefits. Nonprofits can maximize the dollars going to their direct services by accessing highly needed items at no charge. And communities can be strengthened as excess retail items, from office supplies and electronics to furniture and personal needs products, are put into the hands of individuals and families who need them most. Through replication of this program nationwide, Give Items of Value demonstrates how strong partnerships can help drive innovative solutions to some of society’s toughest social issues.”

**“Our members directly benefit from items we obtain at GIV. This year has been challenging with prices going up, and finding ways to stretch budgets is important for every senior and their families.”**

—Cherise Langenberg, Director,  
Linwood Senior Center

## **Organization**

United Way  
of the Plains

## **Program**

Give Items  
of Value

## **Partner**

Good360



# 2022 Honorable Mention Award Recipient

**8,658+**  
hours of pro bono  
services provided.





# Neighborhood Vacancy Initiative

Soaring home prices in cities like New York and Los Angeles have drawn attention to the urgent need to increase the supply of affordable housing in the U.S. Yet, there is another serious drag on housing that demands attention: the growing number of vacant and abandoned properties that are threatening public safety, lowering property values and degrading the quality of life in underserved neighborhoods across the country.

In 2018, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (Legal Services) launched the Neighborhood Vacancy Initiative (NVI) to address the growing and intractable issue of neighborhood blight in St. Louis' urban core. Now one of the largest pro bono community development efforts in the nation, NVI, in collaboration with five of St. Louis' top law firms, provides access to free legal services to empower individuals and resident-led community associations to take control of their neighborhoods.

Since 1956, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri has provided free civil (noncriminal) legal services designed to help individuals and families access safe, affordable housing, healthcare and public benefits; protect their children's well-being; escape domestic violence; and resolve immigration issues.

Through its Neighborhood Vacancy Initiative, Legal Services staff members provide training to help its volunteer attorneys

handle community action cases. At the same time, they also provide legal education to neighborhood associations and other community members.

"Parcel by parcel, block by block, we're collaborating with our volunteer attorneys to help neighborhood advocates tackle disinvestment and displacement that feed the problem of neighborhood blight," said Daniel K. Glazier, Executive Director of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri.

"Resolving these and other issues around homeownership opens the door to economic development, neighborhood revitalization and business activity expansion that can improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community. NVI provides a clear example of how Legal Services can partner with private law firms to equip neighborhoods in cities across the country with the tools needed to drive equitable and inclusive recovery and growth."

**"To date, NVI litigation on 167 unique nuisance properties has resulted in 336 vacant units of housing returning to productive use. With that has come \$177,763 in increased property tax revenues for the city."**

—Peter Hoffman, Managing Attorney,  
Neighborhood Vacancy Initiative

## Organization

Legal Services of  
Eastern Missouri

## Program

Neighborhood  
Vacancy Initiative

## Partners

Five prominent law  
firms in St. Louis,  
Missouri

## 2022 Honorable Mention Award Recipient

**85%**

of students showed  
an increase in their  
understanding of  
healthy relationships.





# Safer Tomorrows Road Map

Violence against children and teens can have lifelong consequences, whether the violence stems from bullying and harassment online or by peers, maltreatment by family members or friends, or victimization and abuse by others in their community.

In fact, studies show that exposure to violence, especially at an early age, increases the risks of injury, delayed cognitive development, poor school performance and dropout, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancy, drug and alcohol misuse, mental health problems and criminal behavior. Schools can offer an important space where children can learn and develop positive behaviors that could prevent violence in the first place.

The North Dakota-based Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC) established programming with Grand Forks Public Schools (GFPS) in 2001 that led to the creation of the Safer Tomorrows Road Map—a groundbreaking and comprehensive program that provides healthy relationship education, violence prevention programs and therapy services to K-12 students. The goal of the Safer Tomorrows Road Map is to disrupt cultural norms and end interpersonal violence in two generations.

Stopping violence before it begins is paramount to CVIC's mission. Founded in 1980, CVIC is the only organization in the region to holistically address the community-wide issue of interpersonal violence by supporting adult and child

survivors, as well as community bystanders and the individuals who have caused harm.

“Safe and supportive school environments positively impact academic, behavioral and mental health outcomes for students. The Safer Tomorrows Road Map leverages its partnership with GFPS to ensure that children and teens receive a prevention-centered curriculum focused on building healthy relationships in age-appropriate ways,” said Coiya Tompkins, President and CEO of CVIC.

“Using an evidence-based and evidence-informed curriculum, we’re helping students enhance their communication, conflict-management and problem-solving skills, and assisting them in building positive family and peer-to-peer relationships. Our Safer Tomorrows Road Map has received national recognition for creating a cultural shift in how schools and communities can equip children for a better life, free from violence. We look forward to helping other school districts to replicate this program and its success.”

**“CVIC programs have changed the ways our students interact with each other, and the skills and strategies that they learn can go with them throughout their lives.”**

—Teacher, Grand Forks Public Schools

## **Organization**

Community Violence Intervention Center

## **Program**

Safer Tomorrows Road Map

## **Partners**

Grand Forks Public Schools

## 2022 Honorable Mention Award Recipient

# 80%

of program graduates  
are either employed  
or enrolled in  
an educational  
opportunity and have  
been stably housed.

Wildflyer is a specialty coffee company dedicated to providing job stability to youth experiencing homelessness. Focused on compassionate service, building community and providing the skills needed for youth to spread their wings.

Making coffee to fuel their future.

*Take a sip and  
let's soar.*



# Work and Life Skills Training Program

More than 7,500 young people across Minnesota, many of them in the Twin Cities area, experience homelessness on any given night. A lack of stable employment is often the top barrier they face in getting and keeping permanent housing. Yet, research shows that people experiencing homelessness can and do succeed at work—if they're given the opportunity to learn how.

The Work and Life Skills Training Program was created in 2020 by Wildflyer Coffee to address the growing challenges of youth homelessness and housing instability in Minneapolis and surrounding areas. This unique employment and life skills training program aims at helping teens and young adults find and maintain mainstream employment. Founded in 2017, Wildflyer Coffee is a nonprofit social enterprise.

Individuals ages 16–24 facing housing instability or homelessness participate in Wildflyer Coffee's four-month paid program, which provides on-the-job training in either its brick-and-mortar coffee shop or its e-commerce and wholesale supplier stores. That training is paired with a professional work and life skills development curriculum that teaches crucial, transferrable soft skills such as customer service, professional communication, handling emotions in challenging settings, and teamwork. Participants also earn continuing education credit for courses such as Customer Service, Financial Literacy and Housing 101.

Toward the end of the program, they receive next-step career and educational counseling to help them identify their interests and guide them to the future of their choosing.

"Rather than providing temporary, short-term solutions that address symptoms rather than root causes, the Work and Life Skills Training Program creates a straightforward journey out of homelessness," said Carley Kammerer, Founder and Executive Director of Wildflyer Coffee.

"Through our collaboration with our workforce, community development case management service and other partners, we're demonstrating that we can provide social and financial benefits to youth experiencing homelessness—as well as to our larger community. We look forward to expanding Wildflyer Coffee with the opening of a second location in Minneapolis early in 2023, and to sharing our program with nonprofit leaders across the country."

**"After I graduate from the program, I'd love to go to college to become a social worker. Working at Wildflyer has helped me network with some clinical social workers who are going to help me find an internship in the field, which I'm really excited about."**

—Work and Life Skills Training Program graduate

## Organization

Wildflyer Coffee

## Program

Work and Life Skills Training Program

## Partners

Emerge

AVIVO

## Past Winners: What They're Saying

Mutual of America is pleased to know that the Community Partnership Award and documentary videos we produce serve as valuable tools in the respective missions of organizations nationwide, helping them to educate and provide models of coordinated action for others to emulate.

“It is truly an honor for the 100 Scholars Robotics Alliance to be recognized with the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award. We are grateful for the opportunity to amplify our organization's commitment to reaching students of color in at-risk communities through mentoring and education.”

**LOUIS NEGRON**

Executive Director,  
100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.  
2020: 100 Scholars  
Robotics Alliance

“The Community Partnership Award helped put a spotlight on the therapeutic value of adaptive sports and brought our message to the national stage.”

**NICO MARCOLONGO**

Operation Rebound  
Program Manager,  
Challenged Athletes  
Foundation  
2012: Operation Rebound

“The Community Partnership Award came at a critical juncture for College Possible. The award helped elevate our national visibility. This, along with the stunning video that Mutual of America produced for us, has helped position us for transformational growth.”

**JIM MCCORKELL**

CEO and Founder,  
College Possible  
2011: College Possible





The Community Partnership Award and the wonderful, inspiring film produced by Mutual of America helped catalyze an increased commitment at CASES to telling the stories of our clients and work, and to ensuring broad understanding of the harm of criminalizing mental illness when we have alternatives to incarceration proven to help individuals and communities achieve healing and recovery.”

**JONATHAN MCLEAN**

Chief Executive Officer,  
CASES  
2021: Nathaniel Project



The Community Partnership Award and the video Mutual of America produced on our behalf continue to build awareness. I presented at the White House’s Summit on Reentry Services, where I shared the GOSO model so that other organizations can help justice-involved young men change the trajectory of their lives.”

**MARK GOLDSMITH**

CEO and President,  
GOSO  
2010: Getting Out and  
Staying Out (GOSO)



When we won the Community Partnership Award, we had no idea how great an impact it would have on our entire community. Suddenly, we had received a national award for the work we were doing. It affirmed that An Achievable Dream was not only important to the children of Newport News, but could serve as a model for schools and communities all over the country.”

**WALTER SEGALOFF**

Founder,  
An Achievable Dream, Inc.  
2003: An Achievable Dream



The Community Partnership Award video is still widely used to help people both within and outside the community understand the way the partnership works and the importance of domestic violence as a social and legal issue.”

**SHIRL Q. REGAN**

Executive Director,  
Women’s Center & Shelter  
of Greater Pittsburgh  
2001: Zone-Based Advocacy

# Past National Award-Winning Programs

Since 1996, the diverse and prestigious group of Community Partnership Award winners continues to make a positive impact on society every day.

Rooted in empathy and a commitment to partnering with public, private and other social sector organizations, these remarkable nonprofits are tackling an array of issues through a variety of successful, innovative approaches. In doing so, they are providing opportunity and hope to many. We are thankful for their contributions. You can read their stories at [mutualofamerica.com](http://mutualofamerica.com). Following is a quick look at the crucial work being achieved by each of the past 26 national award-winning programs.

## 2021



### The Nathaniel Project

Center for Alternative Sentencing & Employment Services (CASES)  
Brooklyn, NY

The Nathaniel Project was established in 2000 by CASES (The Center for Alternative Sentencing & Employment Services) to increase public safety through innovative services that reduce crime and incarceration, improve behavioral health, promote recovery and rehabilitation, and create opportunities for success. The Nathaniel Project is New York City's first alternative-to-incarceration program for adults with serious mental illness who are facing prison as the result of felony charges.

## 2020



### 100 Scholars Robotics Alliance

100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.  
Atlanta, Inc.  
Atlanta, GA

100 Scholars Robotics Alliance was created by 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc., and various partners, as a way to help African-American youth in underserved school districts excel in the classroom and build life skills. This groundbreaking after-school and summer program provides students opportunities to thrive in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

## 2019

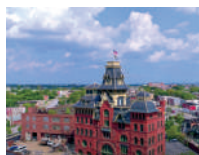


### Survivor Advocate Program

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)  
Los Angeles, CA

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) is confronting human trafficking, one of the most devastating human rights issues facing our country and the world. Through its Survivor Advocate Program, CAST embeds a trained professional, who is also a trafficking survivor, in partnering hospitals to improve the support that is offered when a victim of human trafficking seeks medical attention. In doing so, the program is empowering these individuals to rebuild their lives after years of captivity and abuse, and to turn their exploitation into an opportunity for advocacy to end human trafficking forever.

## 2018



### Baltimore City Deconstruction Project

Humanim, Inc.  
Baltimore, MD

The Baltimore City Deconstruction Project employs a new model of multidisciplinary problem-solving to transform once-blighted blocks of dilapidated, vacant houses in Baltimore's inner city into thriving green spaces. They're doing this, not by clogging landfills with demolition debris, but by hiring and training local residents, many of whom were formerly incarcerated, to take apart these buildings, piece-by-piece, and then salvage the bricks and boards for resale.

## 2017



### Evans Community Partnership School

Children's Home  
Society of Florida  
Orlando, FL

The Evans Community Partnership School uses a transformative "no-wrong-door" delivery model to provide a range of social services. This includes on-site medical and dental services, mental-health and counseling programs, after-school enrichment and mentoring, and transportation and meals, aimed at raising the academic ground floor and empowering students to succeed. Today, the school has 15 agencies working collaboratively to strengthen the community by creating opportunities for students and their families to reach their full potential.

## 2016



### East Harlem Center for Living and Learning

DREAM  
New York, NY

DREAM's (formerly known as Harlem RBI) East Harlem Center for Living and Learning originated from DREAM's need for school facilities, and the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) interest in increasing low-income housing in the neighborhood. The center includes a 450-seat public charter school, where 50% of kindergarten seats are reserved for students living in NYCHA residences; after-school and summer program space that serves more than 1,800 kids each year; 89 units of affordable housing; a revitalized public park and community space; and ongoing job opportunities for local residents.

## 2015



### Waikiki Health's PATH Clinic

Waikiki Health  
Honolulu, HI

Waikiki Health's PATH Clinic is Hawaii's only comprehensive obstetrics/gynecology clinic that specifically addresses the often complex needs of pregnant and parenting women with current or past addiction challenges. It provides primary medical care, smoking cessation programs, childcare, and social services, all in an environment that is nonjudgmental and compassionate.

## 2014



### Surgery Weekend Program

Fresh Start  
Surgical Gifts  
Carlsbad, CA

At Fresh Start Surgical Gifts, an all-volunteer team of world-class surgeons, dentists and other medical providers is transforming the lives of disadvantaged children with physical deformities through the extraordinary gift of reconstructive surgery, dental care and other health-related services. These ongoing services are provided through Fresh Start's Surgery Weekend program, a first-of-its-kind partnership with Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego.

## 2013



### Prison Puppies

Leader Dogs for  
the Blind  
Rochester Hills, MI

Prison Puppies pairs future Leader Dogs with model prisoners who have demonstrated they can be trusted to provide 24/7 care to a seven-week-old puppy through its first year of life. These Leader Dogs not only provide greater independence, safety and self-worth to their blind or visually impaired clients, but also give the inmates who cared for them a sense of pride and gratitude for the chance to give back to the community.

## 2012



### Operation Rebound

Challenged Athletes  
Foundation  
San Diego, CA

Operation Rebound uses the healing power of sports as a path to recovery for active-duty service members, veterans and first responders who have suffered life-changing injuries as a result of their service. Operation Rebound has helped injured service members to reactivate their competitive spirit and pursue goals as big as competing in the Paralympics, and as important as being able to chase their children around the block.

## 2011



### College Possible Access and Success Partnership

College Possible  
Saint Paul, MN

College Possible helps break down the barriers that often keep economically disadvantaged youth from getting into college and earning a degree. Using AmeriCorps members as coaches, College Possible provides intensive ACT/SAT preparation, college admission and financial aid consulting, college transition guidance at the high school level, and a program to help college seniors as they prepare to graduate and join the workforce.

# Community Partnership Award Impact

2010



## Getting Out and Staying Out

Getting Out and Staying Out (GOSO)  
New York, NY

Through its partnership with the City of New York Department of Correction and the New York City Board of Education, Getting Out and Staying Out (GOSO) helps incarcerated men between the ages of 18 and 24 earn their GEDs and focus on life skills and possible career paths to better their chances of success once released. Fewer than 15 percent of the released inmates GOSO has worked with have recidivated.

2006



## New Jersey SEEDS Scholars Program

New Jersey SEEDS  
Newark, NJ

Every year, the New Jersey SEEDS Scholars Program selects over 100 inner-city students to attend rigorous Saturday and summer classes in academic subjects as well as leadership training. Students who complete the program receive full financial aid at one of over 100 independent secondary schools across the country that are partners with the program.

2009

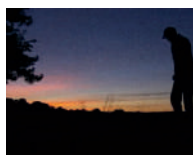


## Barbara McInnis House: Medical Respite Care Program

Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program  
Boston, MA

Most of us rely on the support of family or a visiting nurse when recovering from surgery, illness or injury. Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program's Barbara McInnis House: Medical Respite Care Program is a 104-bed facility that provides 24-hour medical care for homeless patients who are too sick for a shelter or the street, but not in need of an extensive hospital stay.

2005



## The Hope for Veterans® Transitional Housing Program

Community Hope, Inc.  
Lyons, NJ

The Hope for Veterans Transitional Housing Program offers transitional housing in Lyons, New Jersey, for up to 75 honorably discharged homeless veterans. The partnership provides up to two years of group and individual therapy, case management services, access to psychiatric services, and a professional program of substance abuse counseling and vocational services.

2008



## Family Eviction Prevention Collaborative

Catholic Charities CYO  
San Francisco, CA

Since its inception in 2007, the Family Eviction Prevention Collaborative—comprising Catholic Charities CYO, Homeless Prenatal Program, Hamilton Family Center and Compass Community Services—has helped thousands of San Francisco families avoid homelessness by providing rental assistance to stave off eviction, and to help those in shelters or substandard housing find permanent homes.

2004



## StreetWorks Collaborative

Freeport West, Inc.  
Minneapolis, MN

StreetWorks is a collaborative of 13 organizations in Minneapolis and St. Paul that have pooled their resources and developed a coordinated response to help homeless youth get the help they need. StreetWorks' outreach workers offer homeless youth everyday necessities for life on the street and distribute referral cards from agencies in the collaborative for those who want further help.

2007



## Project Success

100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.  
Atlanta, GA

Project Success is a partnership between 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc., and Atlanta Public Schools. This wide-ranging enrichment and mentoring program for students has grown to include programs in 19 Atlanta public schools. Project Success has energized Atlanta, helping thousands of children realize their potential for leadership and success.

2003



## An Achievable Dream

An Achievable Dream, Inc.  
Newport News, VA

An Achievable Dream is a year-round program in academic, social and moral education for underserved children in grades K-12. The program has succeeded by approaching the achievement gap from many different angles: extending the school day and year, providing food and healthcare, and stressing character development and social skills. Partners include the local sheriff's office and business community, and a U.S. Army facility.



2002



### Clubs Go to College

Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford, Inc.  
Hartford, CT

In Clubs Go to College, two Hartford institutions have realized their common goal: to provide children and young adults with opportunities to develop physically, morally and intellectually. The Boys and Girls Clubs offer sports, art and computer facilities, and the children have access to Trinity College events and facilities as well as student volunteers, who serve as positive role models and friends.

1998



### Kinship Support Network

Edgewood Center for Children and Families  
San Francisco, CA

The Kinship Support Network supports grandparents and other relatives of children who've lost a parent through death, abandonment, abuse or neglect. The Network provides guardians with support groups, mentors and educational workshops as well as access to a range of services, including healthcare, case management, community resources and housing opportunities.

2001



### Zone-Based Advocacy

Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA

Zone-Based Advocacy brings together the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S), the City of Pittsburgh Police Department, and the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office in a coordinated response to the needs of domestic violence victims. WC&S advocates work to prevent future violence, helping victims understand their options, including counseling and shelter.

1997



### "A Level Playing Field," A Program for At-Risk Children

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs, Inc. (A.C.O.R.N. Clinic)  
Brooker, FL

"A Level Playing Field" assigns students of medicine, nursing and dentistry from the University of Florida to elementary schools, community centers and the A.C.O.R.N. Clinic to provide basic dental care, immunizations and a range of other health services to children in low-income rural communities in Florida.

2000



### Prisoner and Family Ministry Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois  
Des Plaines, IL

Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives is a partnership of the Prisoner and Family Ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and Habitat for Humanity International. This program trains prisoners to construct homes for Habitat for Humanity families. It has served hundreds of inmates and families, offering valuable lessons in both home building and community building.

1996



### Community Internship Program

Henry Street Settlement  
New York, NY

In this partnership, United Parcel Service (UPS) sends its managers to the Henry Street Settlement to learn about inner-city life. Managers visit homebound seniors, teach job skills and deliver food to the homeless, while learning about the diversity of their workers and the people they serve. The Henry Street Settlement learns how the corporate world solves its problems.

1999



### AI Sigl Center Partnership

AI Sigl Center for Rehabilitation Agencies, Inc.  
Rochester, NY

This partnership of individual agencies works together to help people with disabilities live fuller, more independent lives. AI Sigl Center is the resource agency, managing real estate for programs, coordinating shared services, raising charitable contributions, and expanding public awareness of the needs of people with disabilities, thus freeing the partner agencies to focus on serving their clients.

# 2022 Award-Winning Programs

## **Patriot PAWS Prison Training Program**

Patriot PAWS Service Dogs  
254 Ranch Trail  
Rockwall, TX 75032  
972.772.3282  
lori@patriotpaws.org  
Lori Stevens  
Founder and Executive Director

## **Child Advocate Program**

Young Center for Immigrant  
Children's Rights  
2245 S Michigan Avenue  
Suite 301  
Chicago, IL 60616  
773.571.8334  
mchumil@theyoungcenter.org  
Marisa Chumil  
Child Advocate Program Co-Director

## **Give Items of Value**

United Way of the Plains  
245 N Water Street  
Wichita, KS 67202  
316.267.1321  
pnajera@unitedwayplains.org  
Pete Najera  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## **Neighborhood Vacancy Initiative**

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri  
2700 N 14th Street  
St. Louis, MO 63106  
314.256.8778  
pjhoffman@lsem.org  
Peter Hoffman  
Managing Attorney of the  
Neighborhood Vacancy Initiative

## **Safer Tomorrows Road Map**

Community Violence  
Intervention Center  
211 S 4th Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
701.746.0405  
coiya@cviconline.org  
Coiya Tompkins  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## **Work and Life Skills Training Program**

Wildflyer Coffee  
3262 Minnehaha Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55406  
612.236.4978  
carley@wildflyercoffee.com  
Carley Kammerer  
Founder and Executive Director







Retirement Services • Investments

320 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10022-6839  
mutualofamerica.com  
800.468.3785

in   

Securities offered by  
Mutual of America Securities LLC,  
Member FINRA/SIPC.  
Insurance products are issued  
by Mutual of America  
Life Insurance Company.