



## Give to the Max Day Success

Give to the Max Day occurred on November 14th this year and MicroGrants is happy to report that, thanks to many generous individual and matching donations, we raised a total of \$94,000.

This year, early giving began November 1st and the campaign ended at midnight on the 14th.

GiveMN holds many random chance drawings throughout the day, and the big news of the day came at midnight when our fundraiser for Lights On won the \$10,000 Super-Sized Golden Ticket!

Give to the Max Day 2019 was also a successful day for many

local nonprofits and schools as a record \$21.6 million was donated during this year's campaign, which surpassed last year's total of \$21.06 million.

Thanks to everyone who supported MicroGrants this year!



Pictured Above: The Lights On Innovation Team

## 2019 MINNESOTA NONPROFIT AWARDS for INNOVATION

PRESENTED BY  
THE MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF NONPROFITS

## Lights On Awarded for Innovation

This October, Lights On had the honor of being awarded the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits' Innovation Award.

MCN, which has 53,700 member organizations, gives out the Innovation Award annually to "recognize creative and nontraditional approaches to solving community challenges." Local nonprofits select the winner by voting on the finalists.

MicroGrants accepted the award during the Nonprofit Awards ceremony at MCN's Annual Conference in Rochester on October 25th.

Just before the ceremony began, a memorable moment occurred when an excited Rochester civic leader approached the MicroGrants table.

She said that, in the past, the city would ticket and tow many low-income drivers for leaving their broken-down cars parked in certain areas downtown.

"But because of Lights On, we began to think differently about the people we affected. We got together with the mechanics in town and came up with a solution to offer income-based reduced-rate service to drivers with inoperable

vehicles. **You guys are making a difference beyond light bulbs and I think you should know about it.**"

This small moment shows how the innovative approach of our Lights On program can inspire further creative approaches to problem-solving.

MCN also gave out awards for the following: Anti-Racism Initiative, Advocacy, and Responsive Philanthropy. Winners received a hand-blown art glass award, a professional video production, a profile in MCN's *Nonprofit News*, and a cash award.

## Lights On Partnering with the MN State Patrol



As the agency residing over state highways and interstates, the Minnesota State Patrol gives out 10,000's of warnings for mechanical violations every year.

We are excited to announce that, beginning this month, Lights On will be partnered with the MN State Patrol.

Lights On and the MN State Patrol will address headlight, taillight, and brake light issues that might otherwise result in a costly fine or accident.

Because the MN State Patrol covers all of Minnesota that is not under the jurisdiction of a local agency, this partnership will bring Lights On closer to our goal of covering the entire state.

The State Patrol will start by implementing Lights On in their metro region and is planning to go statewide with the program in 2020.

Welcome Minnesota State Patrol to the Lights On family!

## New Employee: Meet Allison



Allison Agre has started as MicroGrants' new Communications Manager.

Allison grew up in Minnesota and graduated college in 2016 from the University of San Diego. Since college, she has had the opportunity to work for the Minnesota Twins, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Minneapolis Public Schools, and, most recently, the Kansas City MLB Urban Youth Academy.

Allison is passionate about social justice and is excited to bring her enthusiasm to MicroGrants.

## Grantee Spotlight

### Transportation Grantee: Amira



Amira came to MicroGrants through the **Black Women's Wealth Alliance**. She has her own photography business called Double Focused Productions and is also working toward getting in the music production industry. With her grant, she was able to get a car, which has allowed her to get around to photo shoots and easily carry around her equipment. Now, she has been able to book so many photo shoots that she is even getting backed up. She said, when she received the grant, **"I was so excited. I was ready to hug everybody."** Amira says, "I want to say thank you to BWWA and MicroGrants... if it wasn't for [the grant], I don't know how else I would have been able to get a car so **I'm really grateful and thankful** for that."

### Transportation Grantee: Jaton



Jaton came to MicroGrants through **Project Diva**. Jaton works for the Northside Achievement Zone and her job requires her to move around a lot. When her car broke down and she couldn't afford to have it fixed, she was struggling with meeting commitments and, according to Jaton, "I might have lost my job." She was able to get a used car with her grant and says that the car has **"literally saved my life."** Jaton said, "My family and I basically were rescued by MicroGrants. By being awarded the grant...I was able to be free of the stress of figuring it out day-to-day on how to get where I needed to be... **The micro grant has enabled my family to continue to be on a track for success.**"

## Give to MicroGrants this Holiday Season

The holiday season is upon us, which means it is also the season of giving!

As we all take time to enjoy our family and friends this season, we also take time to reflect on the past year and to give back. It is the time to spread cheer and goodwill, and to support the causes we care about.

This has been a big year for MicroGrants and we are hopeful that 2020 will be even bigger.

Please consider supporting MicroGrants this holiday season. You can donate on our website or mail a check. Thank you and happy holidays!



Donate at [microgrants.net](https://microgrants.net)