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Give to the Max 2020 is Coming Up!



Mark your calendars! MicroGrants' annual Give to the Max Day campaign is next month.

Each year, MicroGrants participates in Give to the Max Day, a statewide crowdfunding campaign, and each year we are blown away by your amazing response to our mission and programs.

This campaign allows us to do a large fundraising push so we can maximize our own grant-giving! The amount that we raise sets the tone for what we will be able to do next year.

This year, Give to the Max Day is on November 19, but early giving begins on November 1.

Powered by an enormous gift, our match dollars will exceed \$150,000, so your gift, of any size, is guaranteed to be doubled. You can donate on the MicroGrants website and through the Give to the Max platform at givemn.org. And, of course, with every donation (big and small), MicroGrants has the opportunity to win prizes!

Don't forget to follow us on social media for the latest updates. You can follow us at:

Facebook.com/MicroGrantsMpls
Facebook.com/LightsOnUS.org

MicroGrants.net



October 2020

CEO Don Samuels Hosts 30 Days of Healing



The devastation of COVID-19 and the murder of George Floyd have created deep trauma for many communities in Minneapolis. This trauma inspired MicroGrants CEO Don Samuels and his wife Sondra to lead an event during the month of July called, "30 Days of Silent Prayer: Healing the Heart of Our City," which had the purpose of adding a vital spiritual factor to the strategic thinking, policy proposals, and investments being considered.

Taking place underneath a large, white tent in a North Minneapolis parking lot, the month-long event functioned as a shared public ritual where people of all faiths and goodwill came together

throughout the day for silent prayer/meditation for 8 minutes and 46 seconds periods, which reflected the amount of time a Minneapolis police officer kept his knee on George Floyd's neck before he died. These sessions allowed people to collectively grieve, open themselves to change, and pray for a new future.

"The goal is the healing of the multiple layers of trauma our communities have experienced and preparing ourselves to create a different future," said Don.

With the help of many volunteers, the project, which went from idea to launch in just one week, became a truly special

time of community, grief, solidarity, and openness. People from all over came together and processed their pain.

Reflecting on the initiative, Don said, *"Let us continue to marinate in our individual and collective experiences, be open to what's next and give thanks for our new sense of belonging to each other in our shared openness to new possibilities for the future."*

Samuels would like to thank MicroGrants for donating his time so he could focus on this event throughout the month of July.

Check out coverage of the project in the StarTribune, MPR, and FOX 9 News.

Business Owner Affected by Uprisings Receives Large Grant



MicroGrants recently helped facilitate a large grant from one of our generous donors to small business owner Kagalee Brown.

Kagalee, who can be described as an upright citizen of the community and was referred to us by our Partner Agency NEON, owns the printing company WolfPack. Located in North Minneapolis, the company offers affordable design and printing services.

Unfortunately, his production equipment and inventory were damaged and looted during the unrest that followed the murder of George Floyd. In order for him to restart his business, he needed \$18,000. That is when our donor stepped in to help.

We thank the donor for their very generous contribution, and are happy to report that WolfPack is up and running once again!

Lights On! Expands to Wichita



This summer, Don Samuels, CEO, and Sherman Patterson, Program Director, had the pleasure of traveling to Wichita, Kansas for their Lights On! launch.

Wichita Chief Gordon Ramsey said, “We are excited to get this program up and running after

working on it with many community partners over the last three years. This is a well-intended effort to help, versus hurt, community members.” We celebrate this partnership with Wichita, the first of several national partners who will be added in 2020.

Local Activist Endorses Lights On!

On July 30th, Catherine Shreves from the League of Women Voters interviewed former professor of Law, decorated civil rights attorney and prominent activist, Nekima Levy Armstrong, about policing issues in Minneapolis.

While discussing ways that advocates have been able to push for specific changes and reforms to the Minneapolis Police Department, Nekima brings up the Lights On! program and says that it “has helped drivers in Minneapolis... and is a step in the right direction in terms of a reform to help cut down on the number of traffic stops.”

She goes on to say, “[The program] is just one example of how the recommendations that came out of the ACLU in part led to the creation of this [public database that shows why people are pulled over] that we as advocates were able to use to lobby the Chief to make a specific change to policy that would lessen the impact on drivers of color and poor people who are driving.”

As a prominent activist in our community, Nekima’s support means a lot to us.

You can watch the full interview at the following website: <https://lwvmpls.org/special-edition-series-policing-reform-dismantle-defund/>

Yale Summer Intern Completes 2019 Evaluation

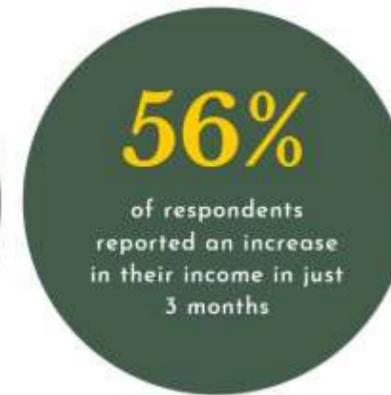
This summer, we had the opportunity to welcome another Yale intern, Christian, to complete our 2019 Annual Evaluation.

Although Christian joined us remotely from Florida, he had the opportunity to talk to Partner Agencies and grantees, analyze our data from 2019, and put together an awesome evaluation!

COVID has been a set-back to

many of our past grantees, but it was nice to reflect on our 2019 year and see everything MicroGrants was able to accomplish. We are optimistic in our ability to re-invest in our former grantees to bring them back to prosperity once again.

You can read the evaluation on our website at microgrants.net. Below are a few stats from Christian’s analysis.



Meet Amy



Amy Harsch recently joined MicroGrants as our new Executive Assistant. Amy was born and raised in the Twin Cities and has lived in New Brighton since 1987. Having worked for companies such as Pentair, Ecolab, WindLogics, St. Jude Medical and Bolder Options, she has been an Executive Assistant for 20+ years and specializes in non-profit accounting. She has been married for 29 years, and has a son and a daughter. Furthermore, she is a Stage III HER Receptor 2 positive breast cancer survivor (8 years and running).

Grantee Spotlight: Eulondra



Eulondra, a transportation grantee who came to us through Hired, is a mother of six that was in urgent need of a vehicle to get to work. MicroGrants, with the help of Bobby & Steve’s, granted her a reliable used car!

Eulondra said, “I am honored to be selected as the recipient of a micro grant. Thanks to the generous contribution, I was able to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has taken a toll on my family. My family and I are deeply appreciative for the support of MicroGrants!