



BCM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Visit Our Website: www.bcm.org

The BCM website includes application guidelines, a brief description of grants, a sample award agreement, evaluation information, donor suggestions, and links to related websites.

Baptist Community Ministries (BCM) is the largest private foundation in Louisiana. The BCM mission is to help New Orleans become and remain a healthy community with a wholesome quality of life for all people in the region through its grantmaking endeavors. BCM has special interests in health, education, public safety, and governmental oversight. A local Board of Trustees comprised entirely of volunteer community leaders governs BCM. Beginning its service to the community 82 years ago as Southern Baptist Hospital and later as Mercy + Baptist Medical Center, BCM redeployed its assets through the sale of its hospital facilities in 1995. One year later, BCM used income from its invested endowment to begin making grants to community nonprofit organizations. BCM carefully considers its Christian Mission when funding community programs and it remains true to the ideal of Christian service to those living in the greater New Orleans region. Since the first grant was approved in 1996, BCM has funded more than 225 programs and initiatives submitted by over 119 nonprofit organizations. Total spending for grant and grant-related programs is over \$85 million since the first grant was issued in 1996. These programs provide services to the communities of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, and Plaquemines Parishes. With Hurricane Katrina forever etched into its history, BCM remains steadfast to its mission. To meet the overwhelming needs of a post-Katrina environment, strategic endeavors that target long-range goals in each of the major areas of interest are a primary BCM focus. The semi-annual transom cycles encourage unsolicited proposals from qualified, nonprofit organizations to develop new ideas and nurture inventive solutions to community problems.

Challenges to the healthy functioning of any community are larger than one organization such as BCM can overcome. Therefore, BCM encourages the constant collaboration of community partners including business, government, grantmakers, faith-based groups, charities, and individual citizens. Programs funded by BCM often reflect themes of self-help, independence, and individual responsibility. BCM membership in regional and national organizations, such as the Southeastern Council of Foundations, also fosters ethical and informed grantmaking and provides a perspective into the grantmaking activities of other foundations.

The year 2006 marked a historic 10th anniversary for Baptist Community Ministries (BCM) as a grantmaking foundation, but it was also a tumultuous year for everyone living in southern Louisiana. It took every ounce of energy to attempt to rebuild following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. New Orleans suffered more than 1200 deaths, terrible property losses, and city-wide devastation of more than 80% of homes and businesses.

For 82 years BCM has followed its Mission to build a healthy New Orleans. To accomplish this, BCM supports existing nonprofits and has developed new organizations through strategic planning. Using a system BCM calls

concept mapping, all programs and initiatives supported by BCM are graphically related to its Mission. Concept mapping matches each grant to BCM's strategy, goals and objectives, and to the results that are expected from the grant. Concept mapping enables BCM to answer the question, "Why did we award this grant, and how do we measure the affects?" The featured programs in this section represent just a few of the fine organizations funded by BCM. All are applying innovative ideas to the problems and opportunities the region faces post-Katrina.

Established by the Board of Trustees in 1997, Evaluation & Research (E&R) helps BCM understand the effects of various grants and programs it supports. E&R oversees the collection of meaningful grant-related data and it analyzes and interprets information as an important decision-making tool. It also examines the overall (enterprise) impact in the community of the collective efforts of BCM and its grantees.

GRANTMAKING EFFECTIVENESS

A series of four logical steps connects the BCM Mission to individual grants. The steps represent the BCM overall theory of change—how the foundation plans to carry out its Mission.

ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING AND CONCEPT MAPPING

BCM uses a method of documenting how and why any particular grant will affect the community. Known as "concept mapping," this visual framework documents how each grant relates to the BCM Mission, strategy, goals, objectives, and what results are expected. For example, the Nurse Family Partnership falls under the Health Goal with an Objective of "access to care" and a desired result of "increased availability." Data is collected and analyzed, therefore, that deals with the objectives of "access" and "availability." BCM concept maps were constructed from known evidence and knowledge in each of the grantmaking zones, as well as past and future grantmaking directions and interests. Concept mapping is a graphically depicted, deductive process that progressively reduces macro-level concepts into smaller components to facilitate and improve communication, decision-making, and to clarify expectations. Concept mapping helps BCM describe, measure, communicate about, and evaluate various strategies, goals, objectives, and grants. Ultimately, the concept maps demonstrate the connection between the BCM Mission and individual grants, such that every strategy, goal, objective, and grant can be traced back to the Mission through a logical path that depicts why it was funded, and serves as a basis to form expected outcomes and impacts.

EXAMPLES OF CURRENT BCM INITIATIVES

CHILDREN' S EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

A huge part of the rebuilding of New Orleans is the rebirth of public education in the city. The emerging charter school system has become the new symbol of hope to residents who want to bring their communities back stronger than ever before. BCM recognized this historic moment as an opportunity to bring together five major educational organizations under one umbrella to work with the new Algiers Charter Schools Association (ACSA). By creating the Children's Education Collaborative (CEC), BCM is supporting best practices in school leadership, professional development, afterschool programming, continuing adult education, and community engagement within the Algiers Charter Schools through the CEC partners. The objective of the CEC is to identify the post-Katrina successes of its partners that can be shared and replicated in other independent charter schools in the city.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CENTER OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS

Working in the new charter school environment takes some adjustment. Early on, the School Leadership Center of Greater New Orleans (SLC) conducted sessions for teachers, principals, and assistant principals to learn how to implement effective educational processes in an independent charter school model where there is no "central office." In subsequent sessions, SLC conducted training for school leaders on student achievement gains

and on the “business” of running schools, such as budgeting, contract management, and human resources. Professional development for teachers, principals, and assistant principals at the Algiers Charter Schools Association (ACSA) is a high priority. Sessions for teachers focus on effective strategies for student achievement. Principals and assistant principals met regularly for practical, hands-on, job-embedded growth sessions and participate in SLC’s Learning Initiatives. In addition, national education leaders were selected to come to New Orleans to discuss the development of consistent philosophical beliefs—a key in true school reform. “If you look at it as a big picture, what we learned in the eight years since SLC began is paying dividends for Algiers,” said Dr. Brian Riedlinger, SLC President and ACSA CEO. “All of those lessons that we learned are just being funneled right into what we are doing here.”

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHOICES

For the Children’s Education Collaborative (CEC), Healthy Lifestyle Choices (HLC) adapted its regular classroom curriculum to fit into the after-school programming for the Algiers Charter Schools Association (ACSA). In after-school programs, HLC combines traditional hands-on learning with outdoor games to lay a foundation of health skills for children. “It is exciting to work closely with other BCM grantees,” said Dee Fuchs, HLC President. “By bringing proven programs together, we are able to offer children the best hope to reach their social, emotional, physical and intellectual potential.” For the past six years, HLC has worked to empower children with the knowledge and skills to make healthy choices and reach their full potential. During a five-year pilot program, HLC developed a behavioral-health curriculum for young children that has proven to significantly increase health knowledge and positively change youth behaviors. Just weeks before Hurricane Katrina, the HLC staff completed the new HLC Behavioral-Health Program and delivered it to their publisher. Beginning October 1, 2005, the curriculum was marketed nationally, and HLC programming is now being used in 15 states and China. The publication agreement helps support the ongoing work of HLC. “At HLC, we feel we’ve discovered something vitally important to children everywhere, and that is how to teach children about health in a way that will immediately impact their choices,” said Fuchs. “It’s just exciting to think that something that started as a seed of an idea in New Orleans by BCM has become something that will help children everywhere.”

BUILDING A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHARITY HOSPITAL

BCM wants a new Charity Hospital — not the Charity of the past, but a 21st century facility that effectively meets the needs of residents today and into the future. The new model of Charity is envisioned as a network of neighborhood clinics and an academic medical center operated by Louisiana State University with a mission of patient care, teaching, and research. This mission is accomplished through a close affiliation with area medical schools and allied health training programs. In an editorial to *The Times-Picayune* on September 5, 2006, Dr. Byron Harrell, BCM President, wrote, “Charity uniquely served as a safety net health-care provider, and it is essential to our collective future.” To BCM, that collective future:

▮ PROVIDES AN ESSENTIAL FACILITY TO TRAIN NEW DOCTORS

Over 70% of Louisiana physicians trained at Charity as well as numerous health professions including nurses, physical and occupational therapists, and others.

▮ ENCOURAGES A UNIVERSITY-BASED PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

The opportunity to share some common services will ensure a cost-effective approach to this project.

▮ CREATES A NETWORK OF NEIGHBORHOOD CLINICS

Charity’s efforts to expand primary care services to neighborhood locations is an important step to making health care accessible. By locating health clinics in schools and neighborhoods and through the miracle of telemedicine, access to services will improve and utilization of the emergency room for primary care will decrease.

▮ OFFERS ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES FOR UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED RESIDENTS

In the year before Hurricane Katrina, Charity treated almost 120,000 emergency visits and 260,000 clinic visits. In the 12 months before August 29, 2005, more than 21,000 people were admitted and 2,200 babies were born at Charity Hospital and University Hospital.

▮ ENSURES ECONOMIC DIVERSITY OF THE REGION

Charity is a major employer and essential to the expansion of the biomedical sector. Building on area educational and medical research assets already present in local universities and medical schools, a new university-based medical center is a key component to support a cohesive biomedical sector that will bring high paying jobs to our region. Lastly, BCM supports increased financial access to medical care through a new form of insurance by modifying the way Medicare and Medicaid pay for services in the region. The revised payment system will give low-income people access to health services in many different settings and from among a wide variety of medical service providers. "By adding new financial access and building primary care services in neighborhoods in addition to a modertertiary care hospital facility, Charity Hospital has an unprecedented opportunity to continue its long legacy of medical service to the community which started 247 years ago," said Harrell.