



**WILLIAM R. KENAN, JR.
CHARITABLE TRUST
2021 in Review**

Finding Focus in Extraordinary Times

By early July 2020, the impact of the toll of the COVID-19 pandemic began to emerge from the confusion that was rife in the early days of the scourge. It became painfully clear that the pressures on nonprofits and the clients many of them served were not only unprecedented but were compounded by the uncertainty about what the next few months would bring. The Trustees of the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust determined that the most appropriate course for them to follow would be to expand the capacity of organizations providing basic human needs, such as food security, while, at the same time, ensuring that those organizations maintained the financial stability to be able to continue providing their essential services to their constituents.

In 2021, the Kenan Charitable Trust made about 70 grants just for these two purposes. As an example of helping assure adequate capacity, a significant group of Food Banks received grants to help them be sure that they had sufficient supplies for their clients. At the same time, a number of smaller organizations providing essential services to underserved people received grants for general operating support to assure their continuing viability. Several examples of recipients of both forms of support are spotlighted in this report.

Now, in what we hope is the aftermath of the worst of the pandemic, a couple of generalizations are appropriate. One is that most nonprofits, through good management, utilization of government aid programs when appropriate and the unflagging generosity of their donors, both old and new, came out of the depths of the

pandemic somewhat battered because of significantly increased caseloads, but in good shape financially. By the same token, the needs of the clients grew almost exponentially, with unparalleled demands being placed on service providers. It is too early to tell to what extent those demands will abate, but it seems likely that they will not return to anything like pre-pandemic levels.

And it is clear that the pandemic opened some windows into areas where services need to be enhanced. Perhaps the most obvious expanded need is in the field of mental health services. The isolation imposed by the pandemic and radical changes to the way we lived, worked, and learned imposed a series of mental health challenges that many are unequipped to deal with.

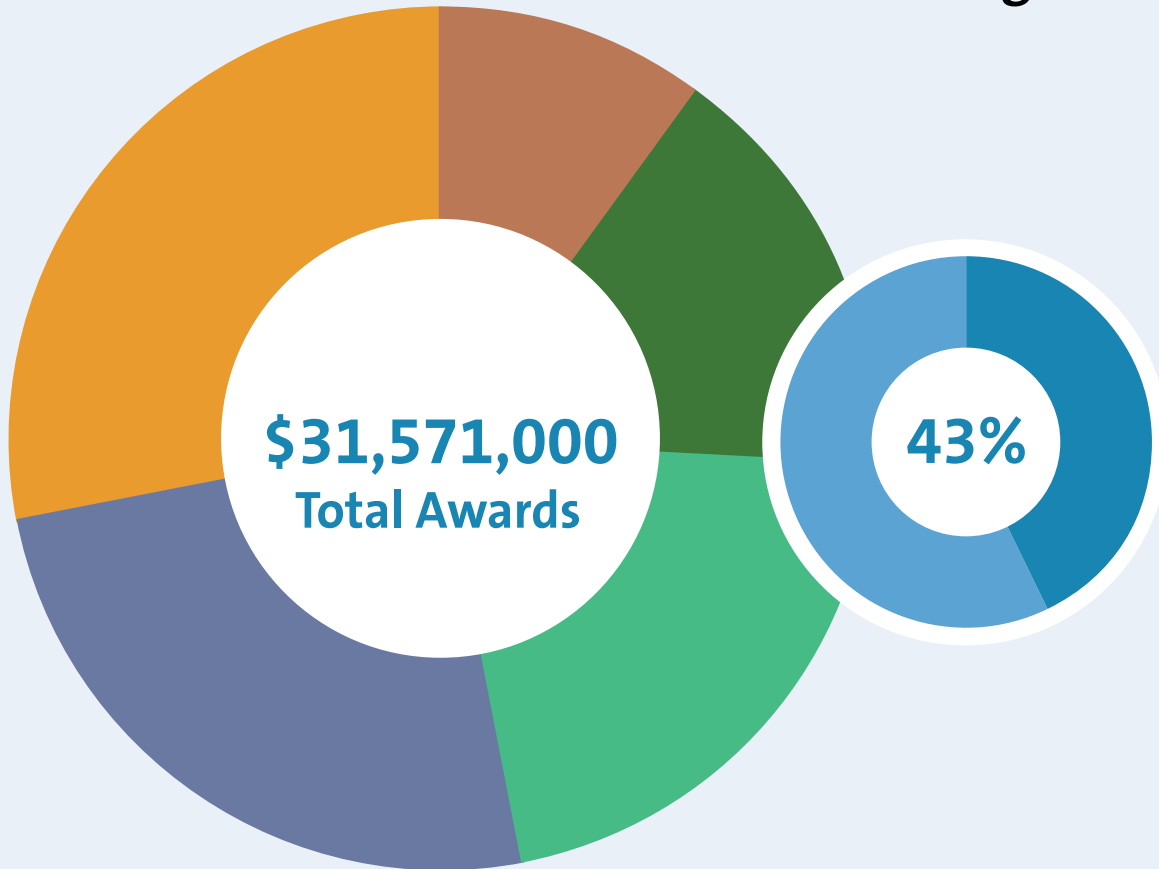
Those of us in the field of philanthropy, like many of our compatriots in other professions, are faced with the challenges of a “new” normal. The elements of the “new” normal include, most importantly, the evolving needs of the clients whom we all ultimately serve, as well as doing business in an environment of constrained resources and insufficient human capital. Hopefully, we are up to these challenges.



Daniel W. Drake
Interim Executive Director

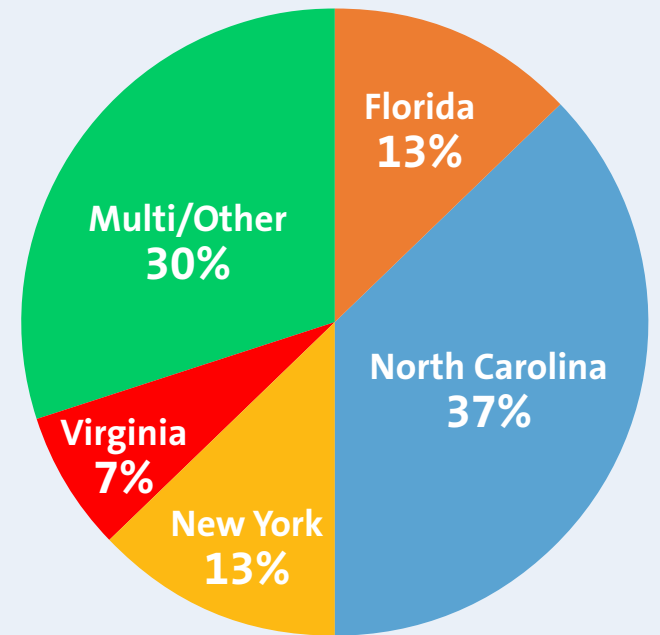
WILLIAM R. KENAN, JR. CHARITABLE TRUST

Grantmaking FY2021



Of 156 grants awarded, 67 (43%) funded emergency/operating expenses for COVID-19 pandemic relief efforts, totaling **\$13,575,530**

\$3,305,000.00	10%	Higher Education
\$5,125,000.00	16%	K-12 Education
\$6,525,000.00	21%	Arts & Culture
\$7,905,000.00	25%	Health & Human Services
\$8,711,000.00	28%	Community Development



Funds Awarded by Focus States

Rethink Food

In 2019, more than 35 million people, including nearly 11 million children, were food insecure, without consistent access to healthy food. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, and organizations dedicated to hunger relief efforts faced more demand than ever for their services. Rethink Food of New York City was one of those organizations, and it experienced a double wallop to its hunger alleviation efforts: a spike in new clients who had never sought help before, and the closing of restaurant partners they'd been working with to repurpose excess food. Since April 2020, Rethink has provided more than seven million meals to individuals facing food hardship and partnered with more than 100 food establishments.



“We didn’t know how long the pandemic would last but we were able to pivot our operations both to address food insecurity and allow restaurants to stay open,” says Yalda Nikoomanesh, Rethink Food’s executive director of institutional giving. “We were able to partner with restaurants and food establishments to utilize excess food to prepare meals for communities facing food insecurity.”



FOOD SECURITY

In 2021, we invested more than \$15 million in more than 70 New York City restaurant partners, and provided more than 3 million meals to communities in need, through partnerships with more than 80 community-based organizations across the city. When food insecurity and emergency needs were at an all-time high, we piloted the Rethink Cafe, one of NYC's first pay-what-you-can community cafes, which has since transitioned ownership to Collective Fare, a longstanding Rethink community-based partner.”

Through its Rethink Certified program, restaurants and food establishments in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, Nashville, Washington D.C., and Miami have joined the movement to help prepare meals for communities facing food insecurity. In exchange, restaurant partners receive resources from Rethink to integrate community support into their daily operations.

“We’re especially grateful to the Kenan Charitable Trust’s most recent grant, which helped us leverage additional support for the Harlem community, where Rethink is working with a coalition of local restaurants and community stakeholders to ensure that the Harlem community has consistent access to high quality, culturally inclusive meals. It was instrumental in helping us obtain additional philanthropic support for one of our higher needs communities.”

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Feed More

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Feed More was serving 161,000 residents of Central Virginia who were food insecure, including 32,000 children. Within two months, the demand increased to 242,000, many of whom were frontline and service workers. The hunger hotline, which guides residents to their closest food pantry or program, went from averaging 50 calls a week to 250.

“The Kenan Trust emergency grant was a wonderful gift in the midst of the worst part of the pandemic,” says Feed More’s chief development officer Tim McDermott. “We distribute food through more than 270 nonprofit and community partners including food pantries, soup kitchens, group homes and other community sites, and we were able to keep focusing on our core mission.”

To reduce transmission risks, Feed More divided its huge commercial kitchen, where 2,600 meals are prepared each day, into two separate spaces for prep and production. It went from fresh, daily Meals on Wheels deliveries to weekly deliveries of five days’ worth of frozen meals to accommodate the loss of volunteer drivers and ensure reduced contact with vulnerable clients. The organization also noticed a rise in need among the Hispanic population, so it added three new partner agencies in Hispanic communities, in order to deliver culturally appropriate food.

“COVID brought attention to how many families live with food insecurity. These are people who are just like you and me, but something has happened in their lives where they are hungry for periods of time. Many people are just one paycheck or illness from being in that position.”

“We distribute food through more than 270 nonprofit and community partners including food pantries, soup kitchens, group homes and other community sites, and we were able to keep focusing on our core mission.”





MORE

Atlantic Union

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Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC

For more than forty years, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina has been providing food for individuals and families facing hunger in its 34-county service area. An affiliate member of Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic hunger relief charity, the Food Bank ranks in the top 15 nationally among 200 Feeding America food banks and first in North Carolina for food distribution.

“We have approximately 800 partner agencies, and they reported a staggering 35% increase in need over pre-pandemic level,” says Jessica Whichard, vice president of communications for the Food Bank. “It’s been incredibly challenging, but we’ve been able to maintain our dual framework of meeting immediate, urgent need and finding long-term solutions to end hunger.”

Whichard says the pandemic required them to further hone efficiencies in how quickly food can be obtained and distributed to serve the greatest number of people efficiently. “One of the silver linings to the last few years has been the deepening relationships we have with local and agricultural partners to address hunger. With the sunseting of Farmers to Families Food Box program [the Federal emergency relief effort in response to the pandemic], we have new opportunities to develop strategic partnerships to deliver food.

“Many people with food insecurity have low income and have to make difficult decisions about whether to buy food or pay the rent and utilities,” she continues. “COVID exacerbated that situation. We’re so thankful to Kenan Trust for their support, which has allowed us to be nimble and flexible in how we fulfill our mission.”



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Photo: Tom Simon

New York Common Pantry

New York Common Pantry's mission is straightforward: to reduce hunger and promote dignity, health, and self-sufficiency.

During the pandemic, NYCP had to reimagine how best to continue honoring that mission. "We saw tremendous increases in need over pre-pandemic numbers," says NYCP executive director Stephen Grimaldi. "Thirty-eight percent more New Yorkers are struggling to feed themselves and

their families, and 64% more children comprise the food insecure. To maintain health and safety protocols, we had to adjust several aspects of our programming, including moving our Choice Pantry and Hot Meal food distribution outside, and temporarily halting our hygiene services."

Lining several blocks around the East Harlem and Bronx Choice Pantries people sought food and other assistance. Grimaldi describes it as the invisible becoming visible. "Seeing people receiving services brought attention to the issue of food insecurity in a way that hadn't happened before," he said. "We saw people whose income



was impacted by the loss of work during the pandemic. We saw bus drivers and MTA workers. We saw essential workers. It wasn't easy for people to talk to case managers and share sensitive information on the sidewalk instead of inside our office, but they did it. I am so proud of the commitment our volunteers and donors made to ensure we could help as many people as possible."

Although NYCP had plans to launch a mobile pantry service, the pandemic accelerated those plans. "We heard from partner organizations that they were seeing many of their families experiencing food insecurity, so we decided to pack Pantry bags with shelf stable items and produce—the same bags we distribute to our members—and bring them directly into the communities where these families live. Our Mobile Pantry Program was officially launched." In 2021, NYCP distributed 7.9 million meals through its food programs, which included more than 1.1 million meals in its mobile pantry program.

"We are so grateful to be able to help individuals and families at such a difficult time."



Urban Ministries of Durham

When Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) Executive Director Sheldon Mitchell reflects on the last two years, he thinks of the word resilience. “To respond and adapt has been true not only of our organization, but also the residents and other people we serve every day,” he says. “In the midst of difficult and challenging circumstances, it has been inspiring and motivating to help people in crisis. Our day-to-day work has always been providing high-value, high-impact services, and during the pandemic, with people facing truly life or death situations, we have been able to continue serving our community.”

Due to the pandemic, UMD has implemented a range of mitigation measures in addition to mask-wearing, additional cleaning, regular testing, and making vaccinations available to clients. The program has reduced capacity in its Community Shelter by 44% to create social distancing and opened a second location at a local motel for medically fragile residents. Normally, the shelter maintains 81 beds for men, 30 for women, and 38 beds in nine family rooms for a total of 149. Throughout the pandemic, UMD has continued to offer shelter residents case management and workforce development assistance to help them secure permanent housing, a steady income, and other needed supports.

UMD’s Community Café has also adapted over the past two years by limiting capacity for indoor dining and shifting to to-go service for clients who are not staying at the shelter. The Café serves three free meals a day, seven days a week, to anyone who is hungry. UMD’s Food Pantry and Clothing Closet had to shutter operations for several months at the beginning of the pandemic but moved to outdoor, contactless grocery and clothing pickup to resume services. Mitchell says one benefit of the pandemic was the opportunity to work more closely, and in a more of a coordinated fashion, with other agencies. “We increased interactions and partnerships with city and county governments, for example, to make sure we had the resources to care for the homeless during this time.”



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Even though the past few years have seen a rise in the number of people needing UMD’s help, Mitchell remains focused on the positive. “It is so motivating and inspiring to help someone go from being homeless to moving into a home. And volunteers and donors give unsolicited feedback, often at just the right time, about positive experiences they’ve had or even just a thank you from a client. And I have to give proper recognition to our dedicated corps of staff members who have really risen to the occasion. UMD would not have been able to weather the pandemic and continue serving our community without them.”

Shelter + Housing

Community Justice Project-Miami

The Community Justice Project (CJP) is a team of dedicated, innovative lawyers who work closely with community organizers and grassroots groups in low-income communities of color. Through the lens of racial and economic justice and capacity building, CJP helps clients facing hardships while pioneering reforms and policies to protect and support communities that have been systematically disenfranchised.

“Because of organizing, Miami-Dade was the first place in the country to implement eviction moratoriums during COVID,” says Alana Greer, director and co-founder of CJP. “We are building on what we’ve done with renter’s rights to support groups across the state focusing on this in their communities. We want to help make the system better than it was when the crisis began.”

CJP has also been at the forefront of protecting the right to peacefully protest. In the wake of George Floyd’s murder, and the demonstrations that followed, police in Miami and other cities targeted black youth protestors. CJP was also among a group of organizations that helped overturn parts of Florida’s anti-immigration bill, arguing that the law was “clearly developed to encourage racial profiling, civil rights violations, isolation of immigrant communities, and unjust deportations. It did more harm for the causes of public safety than good.”

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Greer says the pandemic has brought a heightened awareness of how difficult life is for so many of our fellow citizens. “People deserve to live in dignity and thrive,” she says. “COVID opened people’s eyes to how many people don’t have that, and it’s given us the opportunity to push even harder around issues that pre-date it.”



Criminal Justice Reform



MyClinic Inc.

For anyone forced to navigate the complex and expensive world of medical care, the challenges are daunting. For those with limited resources, it's even harder. Fortunately for residents of Palm Beach County who are struggling with health conditions and trying to make ends meet, MyClinic serves as a health and wellness navigation hub, connecting people in need with services and resources that are necessary for overall health and quality of life.

“We approach our work using a social determinants of health model,” says Amy Pepper, MyClinic’s executive director, referring to the non-medical conditions in people’s lives that contribute to health and quality of life. Created by the World Health Organization, the SDOH model defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

MyClinic’s Care Coordination team takes time to assess the needs of each client and to facilitate referrals for services such as primary medical care, food, rent assistance, transportation, legal and other social services. MyClinic’s Full Time Behavioral Health Counseling Program provides support for individuals and families facing a variety of mental health challenges. For people requiring urgent dental or specialty medical care, MyClinic maintains a network of volunteer



providers in the community who serve eligible patients free of charge. MyClinic also hosts a variety of wellness programs in collaboration with local partners including healthy eating, cooking and nutrition classes, and supplies and education related to chronic disease management.

Recently, MyClinic initiated a program to assist low-income, uninsured patients who were hospitalized with COVID or impacted by the

pandemic and are unable to pay for services necessary for a successful recovery. Working closely with Jupiter Medical Center, under this grant-funded program, MyClinic helps clients with things such as post-acute discharge protocols, scheduling follow-up medical care, and paying for medication, at-home oxygen and medical supplies, and assistance with food and rent.

Pepper says that the pandemic response required MyClinic to adapt and adjust, such as transitioning in-person visits to telehealth. The upside to this transition was that clients were less likely to miss appointments because they couldn't get transportation or childcare.

“We approach our work using a social determinants of health model, [which defines health as] a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

“Jupiter is an amazing community, with a spirit of volunteerism and collaboration,” she says. “With our partners, we put our heads together to provide the safety nets and resources for people to improve their quality of life. It’s always great when a former client calls to tell us she’s gotten a job, or a home, or gotten her diabetes under control. That’s why we do this.”

Essential Services

Global Scholars Academy

A joint venture between the Union Baptist Church and the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Global Scholars Academy (GSA) connects at-risk Durham area youth to a wide array of intellectual and social capital resources, both “high touch” and virtual. GSA is dedicated to identifying scholar needs and attributes, broadening and deepening their education, diversifying their personal networks, and expanding their access to potentially life-changing domestic and international experiences.

Former GSA Head of School Dr. Pamela Baldwin says that the toll of the pandemic has had a major impact on not only GSA’s students, but its staff as well. “Teachers, nurses and other front-line workers can tell a story other people won’t understand,” she says. “School counselors, media specialists, instructional assistants, front office staff, social workers, teachers’ assistants, bus drivers—we are all here. Fortunately, we received a lot of support from the community.”

Thanks to a one-year, emergency discretionary grant from the Kenan Charitable Trust, GSA was able to purchase and upgrade laptops that would allow students to work and connect from home. And in the absence of meals and snacks during the school day, GSA was able to provide students and their families with bags of groceries, gas cards, and gift cards.

Brittany Curry, Director of Development, Marketing, and Communication, says that Kenan Charitable Trust support has been critical to GSA’s ability to deliver an educational environment where students can optimize their academic, creative, personal, physical, and social development. “The ongoing support from the Trust has allowed us to build a strong foundation. I can’t overstate how grateful we are for that support.”



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Educational Justice

The Brotherhood Sister Sol (BroSis)

With a focus on Black and Latinx youth, the Brotherhood Sister Sol (BroSis) helps Black and Latinx young people claim the power of their history, identity, and community to build the future they want to see. BroSis's emphasis on personal development and academic achievement is rooted in a transformative Theory of Change model that provides multi-layered support, guidance, education, and love to its participants, teaching them to have self-discipline, create order in their lives, and develop personal agency, all the better to challenge inequity and champion opportunity.

BroSis co-founder and executive director Khary Lazarre-White says that the pandemic had a disproportional impact on the populations they serve, underscoring the deep inequalities that persist in this country. "The issue of basic rights, of housing, of education and food—these are human rights. When the pandemic hit, many of our youth and their families who work in the service sector lost their jobs, which paid for crucial family bills. We went from providing meals for 70 families in March 2020 to increasing to over 500 families a week for over two years."

As BroSis adapted to the pandemic's restrictions, the organization transitioned its in-person programs to online. Because so many of BroSis participants lacked adequate technology to access its educational and social initiatives, BroSis purchased and distributed 150 laptops and hotspots to keep people connected. Lazarre-White says the pandemic further underscored the gap between those who have a safety net and those who do not. "Working class people in this country have never been supported the way they should. From housing to health care to education, young people notice these deep inequalities. They have seen their parents struggle, and they have not been able to get the help they need, while the richest people in our country have gotten richer."

Lazarre-White says that despite the challenges created by the pandemic, BroSis is expanding not contracting. With a move to a state of the art, 20,000 square foot facility, the organization will increase the number of youth directly impacted, train more educators on the Theory of Change model to scale their impact nationally, enhance its work on health and wellness, and greatly expand its organizing and activism efforts.



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Identity + Community



Give
grow
Arantia Olivo
Chimere Nkhalu
Jenny Esquerre
An K. Yord Samu
ela Rahmeek, Bruiener,
Robyn Henson,
Cabrera
Year
Mandelson

“A good education is the most cherished gift.”

William R. Kenan, Jr.

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