

The Miles White Beneficial Society of Baltimore City (“MWBS”) is a supporting organization of Baltimore Yearly Meeting comprised of ten board members. The work of the organization is performed through two committees, the Education and Enrichment Committee and the Health and Human Services Committee. The Education and Enrichment Committee makes recommendation to the full board regarding grant applications from educational organizations, summer programs for young people and scholarships for undergraduate students. The Health and Human Services Committee makes recommendations to the full board regarding grant applications from organizations that endeavor to end poverty for their participants or that meet unmet basic human needs for the people of Baltimore City.

This year, the Board continued the rewarding but admittedly difficult strategic planning work that it began in 2021. Each of our board members has worked hard to share his or her true thinking on issues and to bring us closer to unity. This process was not always simple or easy. Our respect and care for each other went a long way to enabling us to reach a point where we can move forward with the work we all agree is meaningful and well worth the effort.

In 2022, the MWBS adjusted its grant cycle so that grant announcements are made in January, applications are due in March and decisions are announced in May. Previously we had staggered these deadlines for the different committees in three stages throughout the year. Because of this scheduling change, the Health & Human Services grants were due months before they had been in previous years. Despite our best efforts to inform all potential applicants of the change, some organizations did not file their applications on time. At the conclusion of our grant cycle, the Health & Human Services Committee was left with funds that had been budgeted for this year but not used. Led by our younger board members and their energy, we launched a second round of funding for Health & Human Services grants with a deadline of July 1. We intend this to be the only year that two rounds of funding are offered—but this year we felt led to grant flexibility to our applicants in light of the many changes we have made.

Our new mission statement is “We seek to advance social justice in the city of Baltimore.” We see this mission as supportive of the types of work Miles White wanted this corporation to support in 1874 when it was originally formed. We have focused much of our efforts in 2022 on locating and building new partnerships with organizations that advance social justice in Baltimore City, and at the same time, we have maintained many of the connections the MWBS has valued for years. Five of our Health and Human Services grant recipients and five of our Education and Enrichment grant recipients are new this year.

Thus far in 2022, the MWBS has provided \$85,500 to organizations and \$54,000 in scholarship funds. During the initial 2022 grant cycle, the Health & Human Services Committee awarded a total of \$49,500 to thirteen organizations that are providing services in Baltimore City. These services include but are not limited to:

- rent and utility payments,
- food assistance,

- support by South Asians for people of South Asian heritage who are impacted by interpersonal violence,
- health and educational supplies,
- GED training,
- legal support related to housing issues,
- job skills training and self-esteem building, and
- the provision of supplies for hygiene pantries.

At the time of this writing, the second round of Health & Human Services applications is just being received and has not yet been reviewed by the Board.

Our Education Committee awarded a total of \$36,000 to seventeen organizations in Baltimore City. These organizations include:

- a summer program training young people to become community organizers,
- a program that brings Friends School of Baltimore students together with Baltimore City Public School students to interact with the City officials and learn how to promote change,
- an after-school enrichment program in Hampden,
- support for a Baltimore resident to attend Pendle Hill's Continuing Revolution young adult conference entitled "Experiments in Spiritually Grounded Abolition,"
- funding youth stipends for a city-wide Planned Parenthood Peer Education Program that focuses on participation by Baltimore City Public School students,
- a summer reading program,
- a summer program for Baltimore City public school students whose mission is to "teach adolescents essential life-skills that prepare them to become confident, competent, resilient, well-rounded, emotionally intelligent, persevering, successful human beings,"
- a program designed to keep students engaged in and attending school,
- a program focused on providing healthy food, green space and nature programming to children,
- mental health screening and food support for children during the summer,
- summer field trips for immigrant children,
- funding BYM summer camp enrollment for young people from Philadelphia and Baltimore, and
- supplies for a program designed to reduce summer learning loss.

Additionally, this year we awarded \$54,000 in scholarships. During 2021 and 2022, Board members felt led to begin the work of funding Baltimore City youth who need financial assistance attending college. At the same time, Board members felt strongly that our support for Quaker children remains important and relevant. Accordingly, we continue to provide scholarships to Quaker students within BYM who need financial assistance. This year we had seven Quaker scholars and five non-Quaker scholars. We learned quite a bit during the scholarship application process this year and plan to adjust our process for next year. Over the next few months and years we plan to build partnerships with Baltimore City public schools and

other organizations that can help us reach more Baltimore City students who need financial assistance to attend college.

While our work over the past year has sometimes been difficult and at times our way felt uncertain, we were strongly led to tackle these challenges now, as it seemed the time to do so. As a supporting organization of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, we believe that through our efforts we are helping BYM promote social justice in the city of Baltimore.