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St. Francis Neighborhood Center Receives \$2 Million Gift From the Yield Giving Open Call

Baltimore, MD (March 19, 2024) – Today, MacKenzie Scott’s Yield Giving officially named [St. Francis Neighborhood Center \(SFNC\)](#) as one of the Yield Giving Open Call’s awardees working with people and in places experiencing the greatest need in the United States. SFNC received \$2 million, a tremendous investment in a historically underserved and under-resourced area of Baltimore that will bolster the Center’s programs aimed at disrupting systems of inequity.

St. Francis Neighborhood Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-based organization founded in the Reservoir Hill neighborhood of Baltimore in 1963. Its mission is to end generational poverty and, for over 60 years, it has provided critical resources through free, holistic intervention programs for youth and families in Reservoir Hill and Penn North. Driven by community, SFNC continuously evolves and develops programs that mirror the emerging and enduring needs of the area.

In March 2023, Yield Giving launched an Open Call for community-led, community-focused organizations whose explicit purpose is to enable individuals and families to achieve substantive improvement in their well-being through foundational resources.

“This amazing act of philanthropy is coming at an important time for the youth and families we serve,” says Torbin J. Green, Executive Director of SFNC. “We are always growing and adapting our programming to meet the needs of our community, and this award will create even more stability and resources for the benefit of Baltimore City. I ask anyone who wants to see us in action to reach out for a tour of our current programs and ongoing construction.”

The Center is currently undergoing its final phase of expansion and renovation to triple its capacity, allowing for more classrooms and multi-purpose space for its transformative out-of-school youth programs and increased collaboration with partner organizations across the region. The Center’s [annual fundraiser on May 3rd](#) will celebrate the community mainstay’s past, present, and future, featuring keynote remarks from Jonathan Moore, founder and CEO of

[RowdyOrb.it](https://rowdyorb.it) – a crucial partner in SFNC’s ongoing efforts to close the digital divide as Reservoir Hill’s first Smart Center.

The Open Call received 6,353 applications and initially planned for 250 awards of \$1 million each. In the Fall of 2023, organizations top-rated by their peers advanced to a second round of review by an external Evaluation Panel recruited for experience relevant to this cause, and underwent a final round of due diligence. In light of the incredible work of these organizations, as judged by their peers and external panelists, the donor team decided to expand the awardee pool and the award amount.

“We are excited that our partnership with Yield Giving has resonated with so many organizations” said Cecilia Conrad, CEO of Lever for Change. “In a world teeming with potential and talent, the Open Call has given us an opportunity to identify, uplift, and empower transformative organizations that often remain unseen.”

More information on the Yield Giving Open Call and other initiatives can be found at www.leverforchange.org.

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St. Francis Neighborhood Center

St. Francis Neighborhood Center’s mission is to end generational poverty through education, inspiring self-esteem, self-improvement, and strengthening connections to the community. Under the vision and leadership of its founder, the late Father Tom Composto, the Center evolved from its humble beginnings operating out of two converted rowhouses on Whitelock Street to establish itself as an anchor institution for the Reservoir Hill and Penn North neighborhoods of Baltimore. Through the years, the Center’s purpose still remains the same: bring services to those in need.

Yield Giving

Established by MacKenzie Scott to share a financial fortune created through the effort of countless people, Yield Giving is named after a belief in adding value by giving up control. To date, Yield’s network of staff and advisors has yielded over \$16,500,000,000 to 1,900+ non-profit teams to use as they see fit for the benefit of others. To learn more, visit www.yieldgiving.com.

Lever for Change

[Lever for Change](https://www.leverforchange.org) connects donors with bold solutions to the world’s biggest problems—including issues like racial inequity, gender inequality, lack of access to economic opportunity, and climate change. Using an inclusive, equitable model and due diligence process, Lever for Change creates customized challenges and other tailored funding opportunities.

Top-ranked teams and challenge finalists become members of the [Bold Solutions Network](#)—a growing global network that helps secure additional funding, amplify members' impact, and accelerate social change. Founded in 2019 as a nonprofit affiliate of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Lever for Change has influenced over \$1.7 billion in grants to date and provided support to more than 145 organizations. To learn more, visit www.leverforchange.org.