



Community Grants 2024

**Project Summaries*

Arts Council of the Valley

2025 Arts For All

Funds will support a year-long program of visual and performing arts experiences designed to highlight the vital role of the arts in boosting quality of life for individuals and the shared community. The program will run throughout 2025, as ACV celebrates its 25th anniversary. Events supported by the Earlynn J. Miller Fund for the Arts will be offered to artists and the public without charge. Additional events may be available on a paid-ticket basis. Designed to reach a diverse range of demographic groups in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham area, Arts for All offerings include art exhibitions, concerts, a chalk art festival, international mural collaboration, and Super Gr8 Film Festival. Arts experiences will align with ACV's five program areas: Advancing the Arts grants, Court Square Theater, First Fridays of the Valley, Public Art Initiatives, and Smith House Galleries.

Request: \$ 47,635

Awarded: \$45,239

Fund: Earlynn J. Miller Fund for the Arts

Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative

Funds will be used to install sound paneling to make the studio more functional for other artists and community renters. HDC is committed to opening its space to other local artists including theater and music organizations to foster collaboration and create additional. Costs offset by requested funds for HDC rent and additional income from community rentals will allow HDC more flexibility in expanding the reach of classes and performances to underserved communities, who may otherwise not have opportunities to explore dance. This will allow the physical, mental and social benefits of the dance and performance art community to be available to a wider audience than the organization is currently able to reach.

Request: \$ 50,000

Awarded: \$8,000 (Restricted for sound paneling)

**Fund: Earlynn J. Miller
Fund for the Arts**

OASIS Fine Art and Craft

Funds are requested for the OASIS Scholarship program and the hiring of an intern to assist the organization for both parts of the program. Part 1: The Friendly City Clay and Art Center hosts a class called "School's Out: Let's Make Art!", (for ages 6-13, 9am-3pm), held four times a year. In An OASIS intern, in conjunction with the Second Home Learning Center, will identify two grantees for each class (eight grantees total/year), assist with identifying transportation needs or any other barriers (such as language, disabilities, mobility), and coordinate the grantees' schedules with the FCCAC class schedules. Part 2: The OASIS Scholarship program will select grantees who apply via the FCCAC website; applications will seek out those with barriers (financial or other) to taking classes. From this pool of applicants, the OASIS scholarship will fund 10 multi-week classes for at least 20 candidates in its first year.

Request: \$ 3,850

Awarded: \$3,850

Fund: Earlynn J. Miller Fund for the Arts

Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival

Funds will support the June 2025 Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival, including the production of five free noon chamber music concerts, one Festival Concert (Saturday evening) featuring larger scale symphonic and choral works, and a Sunday morning free “Leipzig Service” (centered around a Bach Cantata, hymns for audience participation, and organ works). The weekday noon concerts will feature chamber music ranging from early works by Renaissance and Baroque composers to contemporary works by living composers.

Request: \$ 7,500

Awarded: \$7,500

Fund: Earlynn J. Miller Fund for the Arts

Adagio House

Funds will support the Compassion Fund of Adagio House, which offers free and reduced fee psychotherapy sessions to those in need in our community. During COVID, nearly 50% of its caseloads were Compassion Fund-based, and now it attempts to keep the Compassion Fund to between 10-15% of its entire caseloads. Last year for the fiscal year ending June 30, the Compassion Fund served nearly 30% of the caseload, spending \$25,042.89 in free and reduced fee sessions, serving 134 individuals.

Request: \$ 13,000

Awarded: \$5,000

Fund: Alvin V. Baird, Jr. Endowed Fund

Family Life Resource Center

Funds will support the Scholarship Fund, which allows community members to utilize a sliding fee scale to cover mental health sessions to those that would otherwise not be able to afford counseling. The fund assists in giving six sessions at no cost to those family or friends that have lost a loved one to suicide. When going through these times- one does not have to worry about how to pay for the sessions. This fund assists couples get counseling and those that are waiting on Medicare/Medicaid to qualify so they can continue to receive service.

Request: \$ 10,000

Awarded: \$ 2,935

Fund: Alvin V. Baird, Jr. Endowed Fund

F.R.E.E. of Harrisonburg

Funds will assist the mission of FREE of Harrisonburg, which helps low-income individuals in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham counties with mobility needs. Insurance limitations create gaps in service that low-income individuals cannot bridge, causing many to end up without equipment they need because they cannot afford it. FREE operates a national medical reuse model program that utilizes collaborations and local partnerships to generate community-sourced DME donations to fill these gaps.

Request: \$ 25,000

Awarded: \$ 25,000

Fund: Alvin V. Baird, Jr. Endowed Fund

Harrisonburg Community Health Center (HCHC)

Funds will support the clinic’s need for infant bilirubin monitoring equipment. There are two ways that HCHC can provide this monitoring: either by taking a blood sample or using a non-invasive neonatal jaundice bilirubinometer. The organization is also seeking funding to purchase reusable Bilirubin blankets that it can loan out to its patients that are in need of jaundice treatment.

Request: \$ 37,200

Awarded: \$ 16,100

Fund: Alvin V. Baird, Jr. Endowed Fund

Silk Moth Stage

Funds will support Silk Moth Stage, a small professional theater in Rockingham County, in the production of which will produce a season of two musicals for public performance. The first play, Audrey Cefaly's THE LAST WIDE OPEN, is a love story about an immigrant and a US citizen, which has resonance with our community. The second, THE WANTING FOREST, is a world premiere written specifically for SMS by Philadelphia playwright Monica Flory.

Request: \$ 1,400 Awarded: \$ 1,400 Fund: Valley Arts & Culture Fund

Any Given Child

Funds will support Barefoot Puppet Theater from Richmond, Virginia, which will present their work "New Squid on the Block" for every second-grade student in Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County schools. The program blends the artistry of puppet making, performance, science, history, and social emotional learning and supports the Virginia Standards of Learning. The artists perform 10 shows for 1500+ students, teachers, and chaperones at Court Square Theater.

Request: \$ 10,000 Awarded: \$1,491 Fund: Valley Arts & Culture Fund
Awarded: \$4,874 Fund: Mary Spitzer Etter Endowed Fund

Corner Cupboard Food Pantry

Funds will support the organization, which has seen exponential growth in the number of clients served, many of whom have been prevented by rising costs from purchasing essential products and nutritional food. The Babies to Boomers Program will make baby and adult diapers, feminine hygiene products, and these food products in a specified area for clients, making it easy and dignified for clients to select them.

**Request: \$ 4,000 Awarded: \$ 2,000 Fund: Harrisonburg Rockingham Food Pantry
Endowment**

Family Life Resource Center

Funds will update and add resources in the children's waiting area and play therapy rooms. The counselors currently are in desperate need of sensory toys, puzzles and items for these spaces. All items have been paid for out of pocket by staff and counselors.

Request: \$500 Awarded: \$ 1,097 Fund: Sean Warner Memorial Fund

Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA

Funds will support the Community Cat Program, which reduces the population of unwanted, outdoor cats by limiting their reproduction. Through a partnership with Ancira Veterinary Center, we provide vouchers to cover the cost of spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, and vaccinations for participating cats. Any community member can participate by contacting us and receive guidance on humanely trapping the cat and voucher access. Started in 2019, we have seen a decrease of over 500 feline intakes since 2022, largely attributable to this program. This decrease of feline intakes represents a decrease in the number of outdoor kitten births each year concurrently reducing animal suffering, feline abandonment, and surrender to RHSPCA.

Request: \$ 22,000 Awarded: \$ 11,695 Fund: Hildred Neff Memorial Fund

Wildlife Center of Virginia

Funds will support the care of sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals from Harrisonburg/Rockingham County that are treated at Wildlife Center of Virginia, the oldest and largest wildlife veterinary hospital in the Commonwealth. The organization saw 4,041 animals in 2023 and have already surpassed 3,500 in 2024. Over the last several years, about 12 percent of those patients – or one in eight – come from Harrisonburg/Rockingham County.

Request: \$ 12,000 Awarded: \$ 11,695 Fund: Hildred Neff Memorial Fund

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Mentorship Program

The greatest barriers to recruiting mentors to match more than 100 local youth on the waitlist are staff capacity, perceived investment of resources, and limited events. By providing staff time to recruit more mentors, eliminating the requested financial support from mentors to help cover the costs for background checks, and enabling the organization to provide additional events, waiting youth will be able to experience the positive support of a mentor.

Request: \$21,748 Awarded: \$13,220 Fund: Janet Sohn Endowed Fund