

## 2020 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund Finalist Organizations and Project Descriptions



**Project Name:** GrowMore for Good

**Project Description:** To overcome barriers marginalized communities face to accessing healthy food, FeedMore WNY is thinking inside the box - a 320 sq. ft. box that houses a hydroponic farm to be exact.

Decades of institutional racism and economic inequality have negatively influenced access to healthy food choices. In our four-county service area, 12% of individuals and 20% of children are food insecure. These rates are complicated by the numerous food deserts and food swamps in WNY, neighborhoods where residents do not have access to affordable healthy food options.

Access to healthy food strengthens communities, restores dignity, and works to create equality. A FeedMore operated Freight Farms Greenery™ will be a healthy food oasis supplying fresh produce to more than 129,000 individuals every month who turn to our 300 agencies for food to thrive. Capable of producing 200 lbs. of produce a week, we will harvest and distribute within 24-48 hrs, a variety of client-requested vegetables, fruits, and herbs.

**January 2021 Update:** In November, we received a container farm as part of a project to study energy impacts to reduce costs and expand crop production. This first farm allows us to get our feet wet and work out the kinks. It is the first of several we hope to acquire to increase the availability and affordability of fresh fruits and vegetables year-round.



**Project Name:** Renovating Homes. Restoring Lives.

**Project Description:** Countless WNY residents bear the often-hidden scars of trauma. When youth suffer trauma at the hands of their caretakers/parents, they are removed from the home to protect them. A harsh reality of the Child Welfare System is its unusually high rate of teen pregnancies. Homespace was founded to protect, nurture, and transform these pregnant/parenting girls and their dependent children. With an appreciation of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, we know that until basic survival necessities are satisfied (e.g., shelter, food, safety), human beings cannot "build up" to achieve our full potential.

Homespace housing opened in 1994 to meet basic needs. Trust soon followed, allowing for next-level trauma-informed care and life skills development. After accommodating over 500 young families, our independent living units need restoration. Interiors need work beyond routine maintenance. The rehab of four townhouses to last another 25 years will directly impact 500 or more of our most vulnerable youth.

**January 2021 Update:** Breaking the complex and inter-connected cycles of generational trauma, poverty, food insecurity and homelessness has been at the heart of Homespace's mission for over 25 years. Rehabilitating the final four townhomes at our SILP will serve hundreds of future clients, ensuring them a safe, therapeutic environment and equitable access to the resources that are essential for creating positive outcomes.



**Project Name:** Dental Clinic at 1021 Broadway

**Project Description:** With a distinct oral health provider shortage in Buffalo's East Side, bringing comprehensive safety-net dental care back to this neighborhood is an essential component of overall community health. In an area where nearly two-thirds are under 200% of the federal poverty level and are faced with multiple determinant of health challenges, many East Side residents don't know how to locate the closest safety-net providers in other neighborhoods or have the means to travel outside the neighborhood for care. Jericho Road's medical staff identify poor oral health as a major issue in our patient base, building this clinic is needed and the right thing to do.

Our dental clinic will be fully integrated with our primary medical care, interpretation & behavioral health staff, care coordination and all our supportive, wrap-around human service programming. Over the next three years, we plan to increase access to dental services by 4,300 dental visits in year one, 5,000 in year two and 5,700 in the third.

**January 2021 Update:** The dental clinic at 1021 Broadway opened in November 2020. Due to increased supply costs associated with COVID-19, the capital/start-up cost for this project increased from \$743,900 to \$952,377. To date we have raised \$657,909 in grant funding and have two pending funding asks totaling \$194,468. Securing \$100,000 from 21<sup>st</sup> Century fund, will fully fund this project.



**Project Name:** Emergency Foster Care Capital Improvements

**Project Description:** Established in 2016 and licensed by NYS Office of Children and Family Services, the OLV Human Services (formerly Baker Victory Services) Emergency Foster Care Program provides a safe, immediately available placement option in cases where removal of children from their homes is necessary for their own protection. It is the only program of its kind in Western New York, and has the capacity to care for a total of 10 children in one facility (named Michael Cottage). In the three years since its inception, the program has served over 250 children.

Capital improvements are necessary due to the age and condition of the building. Constructed in the 1950s, the cinder-block building is stark and institutional in nature and does not offer the ideal home-like setting necessary to best care for these children, many of whom have behavioral and emotional issues brought on by a history of trauma, neglect, or abuse.

**January 2021 Update:** Michael Cottage's capacity has been increased from 10 to 13 beds to meet the community need for this program. It is even more pressing that we undertake this project to make effective use of the limited space and give our children high-quality facilities in which they can feel cared for and supported during an extremely difficult time in their lives.