



Healthy
Lakewood Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Healthy Lakewood Foundation Announces Three New Grants

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) board of directors recently approved three new grants that continue to deliver on the Foundation's pledge to meet community needs stemming from the COVID-19 crisis. They are:

- \$58,063 to OhioGuidestone to provide wraparound student mental health support in Lakewood City Schools;
- \$15,000 to the Lakewood City Schools for the Coordinated Care Project to offer individualized support to families experiencing barriers to meeting their basic needs; and
- \$15,000 to Asian Services in Action, Inc. (ASIA) for COVID-related relief for Lakewood residents who are immigrants or refugees.

HLF President Jeanine Gergel said that the board of directors identified meeting Lakewood residents' mental health needs exacerbated by COVID-19 as a priority. The board identified students' mental health as of particular importance, based on the trauma many families are experiencing as a result of the pandemic and the social isolation faced by students in the past year.

"We're all aware of the mental health challenges the pandemic has created for children and adolescents," said Gergel. "We believe this grant to OhioGuidestone will create more equitable access to needed services for Lakewood students and will help teachers and school staff be equipped to address students' behavioral health needs."

Gergel said the additional two grants -- to Lakewood City Schools and ASIA -- are aimed at meeting basic needs of other vulnerable Lakewood residents. The HLF board was particularly concerned about the acts of racism that have been targeted at Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in the past year and wanted to assist Lakewood's AAPI residents access the supports they need.

"We are committed to those in our community most affected by injustice," said Gergel. "We stand for equity and denounce racism. The pandemic has exposed the AAPI community to challenges that others have not faced in the same way. Our grant to ASIA will help our refugee and immigrant neighbors with access to food, assistance with tax preparation and benefits enrollment, and translation services, among other needs."

About the Healthy Lakewood Foundation: The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit community foundation. HLF was created to ensure remaining assets from the conversion of the Lakewood Hospital will continue to benefit the health and wellness of residents in the City of Lakewood. HLF was established in September 2018 as part of the master agreement following the closing of Lakewood Hospital. HLF was formed from the Foundation Planning Task Force and through their recommendation to the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Hospital Association.

To contact HLF or to review a listing of all of the foundation's grantmaking to date, please visit www.healthylakewoodfoundation.org or email info@healthylakewoodfoundation.org.

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