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ACT for Alexandria Makes Awards to Advance Racial Equity in Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA, VA— ACT for Alexandria's Fund for Racial Equity announces $38,000 in grants to 19 nonprofit organizations and community leaders. The Fund for Racial Equity is dedicated to supporting efforts that dismantle systemic racism and advance racial equity in Alexandria, with inaugural grantmaking prioritizing advances in child welfare, health, housing, and education.

The awardees from the Fund for Racial Equity are:

- Alexandria City High School Athletics
- ALIVE!
- Beatley Central Library
- Carlos Ampuero
- Carpenters Shelter
- Center for Alexandria's Children
- Chrysalis Development Group
- Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria
- Friends of Guest House
- Inspira Dance
- Maria Rodriguez
- Marsha Banks- Harold
- National Community Pharmacists Association Foundation
- Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)
- Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington
- Restoration Immigration Legal Aid
- Sonia Price
- Tenants and Workers United
- Wesley Housing

Awardees will receive $2,000 to support a wide variety of efforts including a community spelling bee for local students, a mobile eye health clinic, development of an Allyship training guide for volunteers, and a mentorship program for community pharmacists. "Alexandrians are passionate about and committed to nurturing a thriving, racially just, and equitable community," says Heather Peeler, President and CEO of ACT for Alexandria. "The Fund for Racial Equity was established to uplift and invest in the ideas and solutions of every-day Alexandrians. We are grateful for the vision and creativity of the awardees."

Awarded projects were selected from 35 proposals. Two awarded projects focus on child welfare, four focus on health, four focus on housing, and the remainder on education. The grant process embraced the Fund's community focus with applications and application assistance available in Amharic, Arabic, Dari, English, Pashto, and Spanish.

The Fund for Racial Equity centers the community and the voices of those most impacted by systemic racism. A ten-member Community Advisory Board establishes the Fund's priorities and leads decision-making. "As a board, we understand that even small investments can make a large difference," Advisory Board member Bill Campbell shares. "Especially for the individuals on the community level who are doing the work." The Fund for Racial Equity is made possible by the generosity of individual donors and was featured during Spring2ACTion. The Greater Washington Community Foundation has also provided matching grantmaking dollars to the Fund.

ACT for Alexandria, Alexandria's community foundation, is celebrating its 20th anniversary and two decades of impact in Alexandria. Since its founding, ACT has distributed more than $33M to nonprofit organizations through grant programs and facilitated more than $23M in donations to Alexandria nonprofits through its online giving day, Spring2ACTion. ACT aims to center community voice and mobilize partners to create greater collective well-being in our community. In 2022, ACT launched the Fund for Racial Equity to provide a sustainable source of funding dedicated to supporting efforts that dismantle systemic racism and advance racial equity in Alexandria. To donate to the Fund for Racial Equity visit www.actforalexandria.org.

To learn more about ACT's Fund for Racial Equity visit:
https://www.actforalexandria.org/initiatives/t/fund-for-racial-equity/

About ACT for Alexandria
Launched in 2004, ACT for Alexandria (ACT) is Alexandria's community foundation and the home for philanthropy and people who want to make a difference. ACT amplifies the work of the community by bringing people and resources together. For more information about ACT and how you can support pressing needs in Alexandria, contact ACT at 703-739-7778 or visit www.actforalexandria.org.