



Brown County United Way

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Brown County United Way awards \$31,682 in 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Neighborhood Partnership Grant program**

### ***Grants to assist people on path to stability in four near-Eastside Green Bay neighborhoods***

GREEN BAY—Brown County United Way is taking another step toward its goal of helping people on the path to stability by granting \$31,682 to four organizations that are supporting projects and programs in four near-Eastside Green Bay neighborhoods: Navarino, Downtown, Whitney Park and Joannes Park.

The grants are part of Brown County United Way's place-based, phase one investment strategy: Neighborhood Partnership Grants. This is the second round of programs that have been awarded this year. The grant recipients and their projects are:

#### **Neighborhood Association: Increase Safety through Security Lighting in Navarino Park**

The Navarino Neighborhood Association is working to improve the physical environment in Navarino Park by increasing safety. The grant will be used to purchase and install security lights that will promote safety for park patrons.

#### **Whitney Park Neighborhood Association: Whitney Park Upgrade**

The Whitney Park Neighborhood Association is continuing its efforts for greater security and beautification of Whitney Park through the implementation of additional lighting and installation of trash cans, light pole banners, and hanging planters. These efforts are targeted at making the park a public gathering space.

#### **Literacy Green Bay: Books and Bubbles**

Literacy Green Bay is working with the Brown County Library to establish Family Read, Play & Learn Centers at three laundromats within the targeted neighborhoods. The goal of the centers is to support school readiness and enrich the time families spend doing laundry by providing safe, fun spaces. Neighborhood cohesion will likely also occur as families come together at these literacy centers.

#### **The Einstein Project: Mobile Makerspace Experiences**

Einstein Project staff and volunteers will offer a variety of age- and skills-based activities (STEAM programming: science, technology, engineering, arts, math) that promote creativity and critical thinking through its Mobile Makerspace truck that will go directly to the neighborhoods next spring and summer. The truck is equipped with digital fabrication equipment such as a laser cutter, 3D printer(s), and other tools that can be used for design and creation. Children will have access to this equipment as they explore materials and solve problems.

According to Jill Sobieck, Brown County United Way impact and initiatives manager, the Neighborhood Partnership Grant program was created to positively impact these four neighborhoods at a grassroots

level through smaller, flexible, easier-to-obtain funds (\$1,000-\$10,000 each). The grants provide funding for project/program/activity-based initiatives.

“We are very excited about all the proposals we received,” said Sobieck. “We designed this grant opportunity to engage local organizations that are passionate in supporting community development efforts. Our hope was to see innovative, engaging, and inclusive programs and projects to create change at the community level, and that’s exactly what we saw in the proposals. We are so pleased to be a part of this work and look forward to working with our new partners in creating healthy and engaged places to live, work, and play.”

In August, Brown County United Way announced its first round of Neighborhood Partnership Grants for five projects totaling \$35,200. Recipients of those grants were Whatsoever You Do, Inc., Navarino Neighborhood Association, Urban Partnership Community Development Corporation, Downtown Green Bay, Inc., and NeighborWorks Green Bay.

Each grant application was reviewed by Brown County United Way’s Impact Initiatives Council and Community Investment Council, both of which are comprised of community volunteers. The money for the grants is coming from contributions to Brown County United Way’s annual community fundraising campaign. Persons or organizations wanting to donate can go to [www.browncountyunitedway.org](http://www.browncountyunitedway.org) and click on the “Give” button at the top of the page.

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**About Brown County United Way:** Founded in 1925, Brown County United Way ([www.browncountyunitedway.org](http://www.browncountyunitedway.org)) is a center for community-based strategies. Through direct fundraising, grant making, community mobilization, and advocacy efforts, Brown County United Way leverages all of its organizational resources and deep local partnerships to advance targeted community solutions. With the help of more than 500 community volunteers from all community sectors, Brown County United Way is dedicated to finding solutions to the community’s most pressing human-services issues.