



Birmingham Change Fund

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Who is the Birmingham Change Fund?

The Birmingham Change Fund is a giving circle comprised of African-American professionals in the greater Birmingham Community that collectively harness their time, talent, and treasure (money) with the goal of making Birmingham a premier city.

How did the Birmingham Change Fund get started?

In 2003, conversations were held in various cities across the Deep South, including Birmingham, asking young African-Americans to share how they spend their time, talent, and treasure into their communities. These conversations were led by Darryl Lester of Hindsight Consulting and sponsored by Linetta Gilbert of the Ford Foundation. These conversations led to the group of young professionals in Birmingham being challenged to create opportunities to improve their community. With guidance from Hindsight Consulting, the group decided to form a giving circle.

When was the Birmingham Change Fund established?

In May 2004, the Birmingham Change Fund officially began its relationship with the Community Foundation with individual investments from 21 founding members.

What are the focus areas of the Birmingham Change Fund?

When BCF was founded the focus areas of the giving circle were Education, Healthcare, and Economics. In 2009, the focus was narrowed to Education with an emphasis on science and math for middle school students.

How much has been awarded in grants? What types of grants have been awarded?

At the end of 2014, over **\$50,000** had been awarded for grants. Initial grants in 2005 were made in the 3 focus areas of Education, Healthcare, and Economics. A 3-year grant award of \$30,000 was made in 2010 to the McWane Science Center and W. J. Christian School in the area of Science and Math Education.

What's next for the Birmingham Change Fund?

BCF will continue to focus on Education, particularly science and math for middle school pupils.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact with us at info@birminghamchange.org or (205) 610-9BCF if you would like to know more about upcoming grants, donor education, membership or events. Please connect with us on Facebook at [BirminghamChangeFund](https://www.facebook.com/BirminghamChangeFund) or follow us on twitter @BHAMChangeFund.

Philanthropy

What is philanthropy?

Philanthropy means “love of humanity.”

Who is a philanthropist?

A philanthropist is anyone that gives their time, talent, and treasure. The traditional school of thought about philanthropist is that it is someone who donates a large sum of money to an issue or cause. However, a philanthropist is anyone that “loves humanity.”

What is a giving circle?

A giving circle is a group who leverage their personal time, talents, and treasure to address social issues in their communities using thoughtful giving strategies. This group can have a greater impact by working together than a single individual can have when working in isolation. The activities of a giving circle include grant making, advocacy and public education as complementary ways to demystify philanthropy by making it accessible to everyday people.

Partnership with the Community Investment Network



The Community Investment Network (CIN) is a national network of giving circles and everyday philanthropists. CIN inspires, connects and strengthens communities of color to leverage their collective resources and create the change THEY wish to see. BCF is a member circle of CIN and one of its founding circles. Please visit <http://www.thecommunityinvestment.org/> to learn more about CIN.

Partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham



BCF is a Field of Interest Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, which is the largest community foundation in Alabama. It is also ranked in the top 100 among community foundations nationwide for asset size (\$151M). To learn more about the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, please visit <http://www.foundationbirmingham.org/>.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

2005

Cornerstone Schools of Alabama \$5,000
Birmingham Urban League \$1,500
Northstar Ministries \$2,500
Girls Inc of Central Alabama \$1,000

2006

Cornerstone Schools of Alabama \$2,500
Northstar Ministries \$1,000
Girls Inc of Central Alabama \$1,000

2008

Girls Inc of Central Alabama \$500
Community Investment Network \$1,000

2009

Treasure Arts \$1,000
Birmingham Urban League \$2,500
Need-A-Chance Inc \$1,000
Pathways \$1,500
Community Investment Network \$1,000
Children's Hospital Foundation \$1,000

2010

Treasure Arts \$400
Community Investment Network \$1,000

2011

McWane Science Center \$10,000
Community Investment Network \$1,000

2012

McWane Science Center \$10,000
Birmingham Regional Empowerment and Development Center \$2,034
Community Investment Network \$1,000

2013

McWane Science Center \$10,000
Community Investment Network \$1,000

2014

Community Investment Network \$1,000