Memphis HOPE Funders
Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Inc.
Baptist Memorial Hospital
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
Community Foundation of Greater Memphis
FedEx Corporation
Gold Strike Casino and Resort
Hyde Family Foundations
John Dustin/Buckman Charitable Trust Fund
Junior League of Memphis
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
LeMoyne-Owen Community Development Corporation
Links, Inc., Shelby County Chapter
McCormack Baron Salazar
Memphis Housing Authority and the Division of Housing and Community Development
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare
Plough Foundation
Regions Bank Foundation
Urban Strategies, Inc.

Memphis HOPE Community Partners
Advance Memphis
Associated Catholic Charities
Bridges Inc.
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Memphis
Career Express
Christ Missionary Baptist Church
City of Memphis Summer Youth Employment Program
CLW & Associates
Community Capital, Inc.
Family Home Health Agency
First Works, Inc.
Memphis Area Career Center
Memphis Athletic Ministries
Memphis Challenge
Memphis Housing Authority
Memphis Le Bonheur Healthcare
Memphis Urban League, Inc.
Memphis Youth Leadership Program
Mustard Seed, Inc.
New Pathways
Right Resource Management Group
Rise Foundation
Seedco
Seek to Serve
Shelby County Books from Birth
Shelby County Commodity Food Services
Streets Ministries
Tennessee Department of Human Services
The Works, Inc.
Uptown Alliance, Inc.
Urban Strategies, Inc.
Watoto Dé Afrika
Workforce Investment Network

Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis
Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis
Celebrate 15 Years
1995–2010

Memphis H.O.P.E.:
Hope, Opportunity, Pride, Empowerment
$7.3 Million Goal for Comprehensive Services between 2004-2011

In 2004, the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM) became a key partner with the City of Memphis and the Memphis Housing Authority (MHA) in securing $42 million in grants from HUD (Housing and Urban Development) for community revitalization of two public housing locations – Lamar Terrace/University Place and Dixie Home/Legends Park. The face of public housing in Memphis has changed dramatically in the last 12 years, primarily as a result of the HOPE VI Program, an initiative of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. For the past five years, a major goal of the HOPE VI program has been to replace public housing with mixed-income housing communities.

The Women's Foundation agreed to lead efforts to raise $7.3 million over five years to provide a new model for comprehensive community supportive services (CSS) for over 700 former public housing residents. The supportive services component was necessary to ensure the Memphis HOPE program provided viable means and expandable approaches to neighborhood revitalization, while improving the standards of living for community residents. WFGM is also responsible for monitoring program goals and evaluations to ensure responsible use of the investments made by our local and national partners. In 2008, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded $800,000 to WFGM for this initiative.

Memphis was chosen in large part because of WFGM's unique social change vision—to change lives by physically revitalizing communities while investing heavily in employment training and placement and personal development. WFGM is the first women's foundation in the nation to lead fundraising for a HUD HOPE VI social and community service program.

Social Change by Transforming Individuals, Families and Communities

As an intermediary designated to provide direct services, Memphis HOPE was created through collaboration with WFGM, the Memphis Housing Authority, the City of Memphis and St. Louis-based nonprofit Urban Strategies, Inc. The heart of the CSS program is the Individual Development Plan (IDP), which personalizes services for each Memphis HOPE client and emphasizes self-sufficiency. The IDP provides clients a strategic action plan of clear, attainable goals that address issues of childcare, economic empowerment and education.

Combining Housing and Individualized Services

Memphis HOPE combines the physical redevelopment of dilapidated public housing projects with comprehensive, personalized case management services, including employment training, healthcare, transportation, legal services and youth development and education. The goal of Memphis HOPE is to help families break out of the cycle of poverty and achieve economic self-sufficiency. The project serves 700 public housing families, 80 to 90 percent of which are led by single women.
Leveraging Resources through Partnerships

WFGM works extensively with a wide range of private and corporate sponsors as well as local employers to support these programs. To date, 42 partners are also bringing employment opportunities to Memphis HOPE clients. Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, in addition to their $3,000,000, committed to offering 100 employment opportunities for qualified Memphis HOPE clients over five years.

Memphis HOPE Outcomes:
Success through a Holistic Approach That Meets Individual Needs

In less than five years, Memphis HOPE has resulted in:

- Increases in income for single women and low-income families.
- Improvements in education and job skills for low-income women.
- New education and employment training opportunities for youth.

Specific Memphis HOPE results speak directly to a number of Comprehensive Support Services program goals:

- Replacing two poverty- and crime-ridden public housing projects with thriving, mixed-income communities. In the former Lamar Terrace and Dixie Homes housing projects, at least half the residents lived in poverty and only half had a high school diploma or GED. With the revitalization of both communities, which combine market-rate, affordable, and public housing, residents enjoy a more diverse, safer environment, and amenities such as exercise facilities and computer labs. Through the WFGM-funded CSS program, they also have greater employment opportunities providing higher wages that advance their self-sufficiency.

- Serving more than 700 families and more than 14,000 individuals, primarily low-income women and their children. Children (ages 0-18) make up nearly 50 percent of the Memphis HOPE caseload.

Expanding women’s leadership through programs offering training in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, health, and personal and professional development. Fostering leadership and employment opportunities for youth. Programs focus on technology training, workforce readiness, and culturally-specific, positive academic and behavior development. More than 500 youth have been served since the start of these programs, the majority (58 percent) through afterschool and recreational programming years (2006-2011).

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