

## **Avison Grantees for 2021-2022**

**ALDEA-** The grant will support the construction of 62 efficient cookstoves in the rural Mayan Kaqchikel villages of Guatemala reducing the risk of respiratory illnesses for families (children are especially vulnerable) and will help protect the environment from deforestation. <https://aldeaguatemala.org>

**Cambridge Friends School** will be offering an afterschool Spanish language instruction pilot for up to 100 PreK through 4th grade students at no charge. <https://cambridgefriendsschool.org>

**FAMILIES FIRST** brings the parents of young children between birth and age eight together in their communities to strengthen their parenting skills by attending 12 early childhood parenting educational sessions. The grant will geographically expand their program per request of the community in the Springfield, MA. <https://familiesfirst.org>

**Food For Free** offers free summer weekend food for low & moderate income students in Cambridge & Somerville. Summer 2021 Food for Free offered weekend food at 7 summer camps. Our grant will add 1-2 camps and serve 350 campers & their families. <https://foodforfree.org>

**Friends Camp** in South China, Maine is a youth ministry of New England Yearly Meeting. This Avison grant will allow them to address the mental and emotional trauma of the Covid-19 pandemic on kids and teens with comprehensive staff training on trauma-informed care. <https://friendscamp.org>

**La Vida Scholars** provides support to help low-income, high-achieving high school students attend great colleges with minimal debt. They support the whole family through this process and track the students that they've helped through college. <https://lavidascholars.org>

**Science Club for Girls** is a leader in experiential STEM learning. (STEM is Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.) This Avison grant will be used to pay for program-related expenses required to launch new clubs. They serve girls and gender-expansive youth who have a racial background underrepresented in STEM. <https://www.scienceclubforgirls.org>

**Sibling Connections** runs programs for Massachusetts children in foster care to facilitate keeping connections with separated siblings. The project we are funding plans to expand trauma informed year-round weekend programs that allow time to deepen bonds among siblings and give foster parents time off from their demanding roles. <https://www.siblingconnections.org>

**Straight Ahead Ministries** proposed the Metro Boston Youth Re-entry Project. It works with youth offenders under 18, male and female, to prevent reoffending. Each Youth Re-entry Center begins working with youth while they are locked up in juvenile facilities or adult correction agencies and continues supporting them as they return to home communities. <https://straightahead.org>

**UTEC** requested funding for its "The 2Gen Center" which offers young parents work in their social enterprises while also learning within their educational program focused on attaining a high school equivalency degree. The intergenerational program also provides quality childcare for children birth to 5 years and offers parents experiential parenting education through coached interactions with their children. <https://utecinc.org>

**YMCA of Greater Boston** seeks to address a lack of opportunities for positive interactions between law enforcement officers and low-income youth. The Avison grant will support a small program, called the

Boston Police Campership Program, that provides an opportunity to build and grow positive relationships between local police and at-risk youth and families. Police choose the young people receiving camp scholarships and participate in activities with the youth. <https://ymcaboston.org>